

MONDAY 1 JANUARY 1996



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Beleaguered Major tries to rally Tories

Six more MPs 'could defect'

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

John Major last night sought to rally the demoralised Conservative Party with a New Year message of "confidence, optimism and hope", and a warning to Britain not to throw away the prospect of success by electing a Labour government.

Promising better times ahead, his message to all Tory constituency chairmen was underpinned by a clear determination not to let the defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats blow the Government off course.

"Labour would weaken, divide and wreck Britain. Britain has earned the right to look for-ward to the New Year with confidence, optimism and hope," he said. *1996 will be the year when proven success wins through."

But Ms Nicholson's defection and a pending by-election, which could reduce Mr Major's Commons majority to three votes, left the Prime Minister facing the worst 12 months of his turbulent term of office.

Ms Nicholson and Tory MPs in the "One Nation" group warned there could be up to six other Tory MPs who may be ed to defect. The whips are largely powerless to stop further defections, although some of the main suspects - including Hugh Dykes, Peter Temple-Morris, and Sir Keith Speed -

denied any plans to do so. A senior government source said the Government expected its majority to be wiped out by the end of the year. That would force Mr Major to rely on the 12 Ulster Unionists to struggle through to a general election in 1997, when the Tories are hoping that the economic upturn will revive the feel-good factor

among the voters. Leading Ulster Unionists vesterday confirmed they would not seek to bring down the Government. But this assurance was based on the proviso that

the Government refused to compromise in its demands for the IRA to begin disarming before Sinn Fein may join all-par-ty talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Labour's Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, said: "This government is in crisis. The latest defection is proof positive of the turnoil within Conservative ranks." John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, attacked as pathetic" a Tory New Year advertisement in yesterday's newspapers listing the party's record



'profoundly illiberal' Cabinet

[Mr Major] and his government are so out of touch", he said. Ms Nicholson accused Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, of "shabby" behaviour for revealing she had asked him about her prospects for promotion to the ministerial ranks before she defected. "He is an irrelevancy to me now because of the way he has embroidered and claborated and distorted three minor conver-

sations I had with him over the last 15 years. "That is a pretty shabby way to behave. So clearly it is not worth thinking about him again, I am rather sad about that because I rather admired him."

But her decision continued to cause shock and dismay among her colleagues, and anger among ministers. "Were it not for the majority, it would be good riddance," said one min-

Writing in the *Independent* to-day, Ms Nicholson accuses Mr Major of being "paralysed by indecision", waiting for an elec-tion which could not long be delayed, relying on "the worst, hard-faced populist instincts' and pandering to "Little Eng-landers" in the Tory party. She also accuses the Cabinet of profoundly illiberal attitudes towards ethnic minorities" and

asylum-seekers. Mr Major sought to reassure the One Nation Tories that the Budget strategy would also meet their demands for better education for poorer children, and improvements in public services in addition tax cuts towards the 20p basic rate, which had been demanded by the

right-wing of the Tory party. Echoing the slogan which is likely to be used by the Tories at the next election, he warned that Labour would threaten to throw away the success in store for 1996 - the lowest mortgage costs for a generation; increaslies; and higher spending on

schools, hospitals and police. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, is also planning to appeal to the One Nation Tory waverers, with a few barbs at the Labour leadership for being too cautious over tax-

es, spending, and Europe. His speech later this month will attempt to map out a dis-tinctive Liberal Democrat agenda, which leadership sources said would offer the electorate

Meanwhile, the One Nation Macleod group of Tory MPs is planning to set out its own agenda for the manifesto. Possible defectors, page 2 Emma Nicholson, page 17



Celine's father, Bernard Figard, on his way to lay flowers at the lay-by where the French Andrew Mart, page 17 | student's body was found

first five-year national plan was

discussed at full Cabinet, on 3

August 1965, the utopian idea

of "scientific planning" seemed out of touch with the harsh re-

alities of the economic situation.

Although it was published after

a low-key Cabinet discussion -which marked the end of

George Brown's ambition to as-

sert the power of his Depart-

(DEA) over the Treasury - it

ment of Economic Affairs

Father visits spot where body was found and makes new plea for information Celine death linked to serial killer

The murderer of Celine Figard, the French student whose naked body was found near Worcester, may be the serial killer who has been dubbed the "Midland Ripper", police re-

vealed yesterday.

Her death is being linked with that of Tracy Turner, a prostitute found murdered in Leices-tershire in 1994, who was one of five victims whose killings were discussed by senior detectives at a meeting in November.

Detective Chief Supt John McCammont, the officer heading the investigation into Ms Fi-gard's murder, said: "There are several cases around the country, which are well known, where naked women have been found adjacent to major roads with similar injuries."

Bernard Figard, Celine's fa-ther, yesterday visited the spot where her body was found by a layby on the A449 at Hawford, Worcestershire, on Friday and laid three bunches of white and pink chrysanthemums beneath a tree. He stood with his head bowed and then, speaking through an interpreter, asked anyone with information about his daughter to come forward. He said: "Celine came to this country because she liked England and because she liked the people here. Anyone who can

help must come forward." Ms Figard, 19, an accounalive on 19 December accepting a lift from the driver of a white Mercedes lorry at the Chieveley service area at the junction of the M4 and the A34 near Newbury, Berkshire. He is described as 30 to 35 years old with short fair hair, possibly a short cropped beard but no moustache. The driver has not come forward to clear himself of suspicion and detectives are increasingly convinced he was responsible for the murder.



Celine Figard: Last seen alive at Chieveley services

A post mortem examination revealed she had been strangled and suffered head injuries. There was no sign of sexual assault. This, and the fact that she was found naked and had been strangled, have led detectives to link her death with that with that of Turner, 32, from Stafford. who worked as a prostitute picking up customers at motorway service stations in the Midlands. Det Chief Supt Mc-Cammont said: "We will be looking at that case."

In November senior police officers from Leicestershire, West Midlands, Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire police forces met to discuss similarities between the deaths of Tirmer, Samo Paull, Dawn Shields, Julie Finley and Julie Clayton.

Det Chief Supt McCammont said police are now concenig on two aspects of the inquiry. "We want to get as much information from the site where she was found, so we are appealing to motorists and walkers on the A449 between Worcester and Kidderminster to contact us if they saw anything

suspicious by the layby.

"We are also appealing for the lorry driver who was seen at the Chieveley Service Station on the M4 on December 19 to come forward.

Midland Ripper, page 3

How Wilson planned to invade Rhodesia



Harold Wilson: Abandoned

JOHN RENTOUL

Behind the public triumph of Harold Wilson's first full year as Prime Minister, papers re-leased today reveal the diffi-culties facing the Labour government in 1965.

The 30-year state papers made available at the Public Record Office in Kew reveal that Wilson considered a farfetched plan to invade Rhodesia after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 and that the Government all-but abandoned the concept of the five-year national plan. They also show how Labour abandoned its manifesto commitment to prevent rail closures.

contingency plans for invading Rhodesia were drawn up by Ministry of Defence planners, despite Wilson's aversion to making war on "our kith and kin". The papers show, however, that the planners warned against using the most extreme option because "the conse-quences of failure would be ap-

Wilson also made an informal approach to Lord Mountbatten to fly to Rhodesia to rally loyal support. In his reply to the Prime Minister, Mountbatten made clear his support for the plan, which was eventually vetoed by the Queen.

to fill the air-waves. The law, passed in 1994, has gradually

forced radio stations to in-

crease their quota of Le Pop

Français. The new, tougher

rules, coming into force with the

New Year, are driving radio ex-

ecutives, and pop fans, to

After UDI in November, son had no basis for making his culties," he told the Cabinet. By the time the draft of the bellion could be ended "within a matter of weeks rather than months". Intelligence assessments indicated that the Rhodesian regime could prob-

ably survive economic sanc-tions indefinitely.

On the domestic front, Wil-son was faced with a minor sterling crisis in July, which was used as a pretext for dropping "cer-tain schemes of social importance", such as the abolition of NHS charges.

was the first and last national "If the government intended The papers also reveal in any case to postpone these Labour's U-turn over rail cloprojects for a time, it would be well to announce this now in the sures, and the Cabinet discus-Other papers reveal that Wil- context of the economic diffisions about ways they could "put

the government's policy in bet-ter perspective" by deliberately arranging some closures to be proposed which they could re-

The scribbled words "I should like Marcia to see all these in future" on the cover of a folder of confidential Cabinet papers, shed new light on the Prime Minister's relationship with his personal political secretary, Marcia Williams. The memos which followed Wilson's request show the depth of suspicion Marcia aroused in Downing Street officials, and they contradict her later protestations that she did not see clas-

John doesn't get it SO HE DOESN'T KNOW that free market economics is making poor people poorer, he doesn't see the connection between personal greed and the state we're in, and he doesn't understand that helping yourself can be at the expense of others. Don't be Blos John – get the NI. Each month we tackle one subject in depth. It could be AIDS or the Arms Trade, Human Rights or Humper. Nel magazine is quicker to read than a book, right up-no-theminute – and a one year subscription is just (24.85. But you don't have to take our word for it! just fill in the box below and we will Post to: New Internationalist, FREE PO Box 79, Hertford SG14 1YB

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IN BRIEF **Gulf war 'interference'**

Four British airmen may have been lost unnecessarily at the start of the Gulf war because of "disgraceful interference" by a senior officer. Page 5

Antarctic walk abandoned Borge Ousland, the Norwegian attempting to walk across the Antarctic, has given up because Page 3 of frestbite.

Serb gloom

Serbs in areas near Sarajevo about to be taken over by the Bosnian government face the New Year with gloom and

French out of tune with le rock 'n' roll

CHRISTOPHER BURNS Associated Press

Paris -- France's Canute-like determination to hold back the tide of anglophone culture has found a new victim today: Le Rock 'n' roll.

From midnight last night, French radio stations - even those dedicated to British and American rock - face suspensions and huge fines unless at least 40 per cent of their pop songs are in French.
The problem is that there are

"There just aren't enough gny, programme director at Fun Radio. "We've felt rather negative effects in the last six months, and now it'll be worse."

play non-stop Anglo-American hits. She complains she is being forced to flood her air-time with ageing French rockers, unpopular with the young, such as Johnny Halliday, and the hand-ful of French rap bands, like MC Solaar, who are successful at home and abroad, "You can't fill the quota with a bunch of little

French artists. The quality is rap groups," she added.
The French radio charts are dominated by foreign bands; only six French groups made the Top 20 last month. "I think it's rather stupid. Just because Ms Davigny's station used to we're in France doesn't mean

we have to listen to French mu-sic," said Audrey Ullman, 22, a fan of Prince and the Grateful Dead, browsing for CDs at the Francois. Louvre Museum's shopping mall.

"The law was made to defend French culture and economic activity," argued Dominique Devidis, a spokesman for the official Council on Audiovisual. "If we're taken over by American music, we won't be economically viable anymore." He is not entirely without support among pop fans. Back

at the Louvre shopping mall,

Christian Boy, 35, a soldier in Levi jeans and jacket, swayed to the late French crooner, Claude "I love French music. We're

sified or secret documents.

too invaded by Anglo-Saxon music," he said, "Radios should make more room for our music, which has beautiful words."



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not enough French pop groups

Tories in trouble: Nicholson's defection leaves Government increasingly vulnerable to vote of no confidence

Labour looking to force early election

Chief Political Correspondent

The first big test for the Government following the defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats could come early in the new year with a rerun of the issue on which it was defeated just before Christmas the opening of British fishing

waters to European fleets. The defeat, although embarrassing and morale-jolting, was confined to a technical matter, but ministers fear that Labour may now put down a motion of no confidence in the Government's conduct of its

COLIN BROWN

The Ulster Unionists yesterday

offered to throw John Major a

lifeline to enable his Government to survive until 1997, but

at the price of holding firm in its demands for the IRA to be-

gin disarming before Sinn Fein

The increasing influence of the 12 Ulster Unionists in the

Commons arithmetic will alarm

the Irish government. Assur-

ances that they will not be able

to exact a change of policy will

be sought before the two Prime

Ministers meet again, possibly

in late January.

But a leading Tory back-bench MP, Peter Temple-Mor-

ris, warned Mr Major he could

not trust the Ulster Unionists to

Mr Temple-Morris, co-chair-

man of the British-Irish Parlia-

mentary body, said: "Having observed them pretty closely

during 1976 to 1979, you

couldn't trust them then, and

you cannot trust them now. They are not what I would call

a fully national party. They see

everything in terms of their

own region. I think Ireland

transcends party politics. We

have an historic opportunity

now which is of greater impor-

tance than the next general

up with very strong recom-

mendations aimed at the IRA

on the one hand and the British

government on the other. Providing they come up with reasonable recommendations

for the IRA to begin decom-

missioning, we should use that

as an excuse to get off the

hook of preliminary decom-

He added: "I hope that the Mitchell commission will come

election.

missioning.

can join all-party talks.

Such a move would attract the support of the Ulster Unionists, a prominent Ulster Unionist MP confirmed last night. The Liberal Democrats including Ms Nicholson would be expected to vote with Labour.

The Government defeat. brought about by a Tory rebellion, and Ulster Unionist opposition, underlined the vulnerability of its majority. After Ms Nicholson's defection, Mr Major is faced with the prospect of a by-election defeat in Staffordshire South East, the

in Parliament, following the

defection of Emma Nicholson

The pressure from Dublin and Irish Nationalists on Mr

Major to give way is expected

to increase after the report, due in two weeks, by the Mitchell

Commission on dealing with the

IRA weapons. There are doubts

that it will be able to find a way

The Ulster Unionists, led by

David Trimble, are willing to

support the Government as

long as Mr Major sticks to the

existing policy of insisting on a

start being made to decommis-

sioning before Sinn Fein can

take a seat at the negotiating

"We are going to try to sup-

port the Government in the foreseeable future," said Ken

Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist

ing about here are votes of con-

fidence. If there was a vote of

no confidence tomorrow we

would have to ask ourselves: Is it worth bringing them down?

The answer is no," said Mr

The three Democratic

Unionist MPs will put pressure

on Mr Major to embrace the

plan for a directly elected as-

sembly for Ulster to appoint ne-

gotiating teams for all-party talks, although the idea has

been dismissed by the nation-

alist SDLP leader John Hume,

and has failed convince John

Bruton, the Irish Prime Minis-

ter.
The rise in killings of alleged
Polfost has

drug dealers in Belfast has

raised fears that the IRA could

be inching back towards vio-

lence, thus threatening the

peace process. Those fears are

likely to be increased if no way

round the impasse is found, and

Maginnis.

"The only thing we are talk-

spokesman on security.

through the impasse.

to the Liberal Democrats.

Unionists

offer lifeline

to Major

no-confidence vote with the Lightbown, reducing the Govintention of forcing an early erument's majority to three.

Another by-election defeat or another defection, would all but wipe out Mr Major's majority. He would then have to depend on alliances with the minor parties, led by the Official Ulster Unionists. Unlike the Callaghan government of the late 1970s, he has nothing to of-fer the Scottish and Welsh nationalists to secure their support

in a no-confidence vote. Mr Major's leadership will be out on the line in May, when the Tories expect to suffer more disastrous losses in the local elections. If the party's morale cracks, Labour will be on the

lookout for any opportunity to bring the Government down with a no-confidence vote.

Senior government sources said last night that Mr Major expected to lose his working majority in the Commons before the end of 1996, but was still planning to struggle through to a general election in May, 1997. As Ms Nicholson's defec-

tion showed, Mr Major is playing a careful balancing act between the One-Nation Tories, and the Euro-sceptics, who could force a general election, although it would be almost certain political suicide for many of them. Labour's plan is to inflict as much damage as possible, in the hope that it will wear ister, were satisfied with assur- tration before it was brought down the Government.

Labour sources confirmed that the party leadership was also preparing for a full-scale vote against rail privatisation early in the new year. A number of One-Nation Tory MPs warned before Christmas that they may vote against the Government on the issue.

However, the Independent rebellion has receded following the court ruling that the director of franchising for the new privatised services will have to protect the existing timetable. The potential rebels, led by Sir Keith Speed, a former minances they were given in a private meeting by Sir George Young the Transport Secretary, that more rolling stock could be provided as a result of privatisation. Others who were uneasy

and Nicholas Winterton. The Liberal Democrats will vote with Labour against rail has learnt that the threat of a privatisation but Mr Major can count on Ulster Unionist support, because it does not directly affect Northern Ireland.

about privatisation included

Tim Rathbone, Stephen Day

Senior Labour sources said there were parallels between Mr Major's difficulties and the last days of the Callaghan adminisdown by a single Irish nationalist abstention on a no-confidence vote in 1979.

will take every opportunity we can," a leadership source said.
"There was a whiff of defeat about the Callaghan government. It was a question of when, not if, it would be defeated. I think John Major is a very dogged man. We don't expect them to go on until 1997, but that is what he is determined to do. He needs to do that, to get another Budget, but his problem is that he is no longer in control."

Despite the Government's troubles. Labour is wary of predicting an early election. "We

sex, which covers a third of the county, none of 400 drivers stopped tested positive. In Scotland, from the beginning of December until last Saturday. 915 of 71,422 drivers tested were positive. A spokesman for Strathelyde Police said the figures showed self-restraint from many who must have been tempted to drive in the appalling weather conditions over Christmas when much public transport was at a standstill.

Essex boasts no drink-drivers

Police forces are set to celebrate a successful Christmas drink-driving crackdown with a sharp fall arrests in many areas.

In the Bocking division of Es-

'Burglar' dies

A suspected burglar died in hospital after being disturbed by a householder, police said. A struggle apparently broke out between Niklos Baumgarduer, 53, and an intruder at his home in Ockbrook, near Derby.

Queen's donation

The Queen has made a personal contribution to the memorial fund for the headteacher Philip Lawrence who was stabbed to death when he went to the rescue of a pupil being attacked by a gang outside his school on 8 December. Harry Greenway. MP for Ealing in north-west London where Mr Lawrence lived with his wife and four children, described the sum as sub-stantial". The fund has £60,000.

Gunman hunted

Police were hunting a teenager after a man was shot dead . and a youth seriously injured in the Moss Side area of Manchester early on Saturday. The victim, 20, who police have not identified, was shot in the head at close range as he sat in a car. A 17-year-old in the car was hit in the leg and was under armed guard in Manchester Royal Infirmary, where detectives were waiting to interview him.

Lottery jackpot

The winning numbers in Saturday's lottery draw were 6, 43, 42, 39, 45 and 32. The bonus was 36. The jackpot was not won, leaving a rollover prize of at least £33m for next weekend's draw.

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onc Newspapers, telephone 0988 402455.

Six Tory MPs most likely to be targeted by Labour or the Liberal Democrats



Leading wet, chairman of the One Nation Macleod group of Tory MPs, to which Emma Nicholson belonged. He is openly critical of the Government for not moving further in the Northern Ireland peace process, but will stay and fight. "I have no intention whatsoever of going over. I have a very fundamental loyalty to my constituency. I cannot face kicking them in the teeth."



Hugh Dykes, (Harrow East) 56 Europhile and leading member of the European movement, even wears a tie and watch with flag of Europe, but oddly voted with Euro-sceptics against Government in defeat on fish quotas. On most people's list as MP most likely to defect over Europe, but said yesterday he would not do so. "I am a lifelong Conservative and intend to stay and fight for what I believe are the right policies."





One Nation Tory, former minister, member of the Macleod group, claimed he was approached in 1981-82 to join the Liberals after he was sacked as a Navy minister by Thatcher, but told them he would stay to fight his comer. "I remember lain Macleod saying to me, 'You never go to another party . . . ' " He said he had not changed that view.



Robert Hicks, (Comwall South East) 57 Dripping wet, former whip in Heath Government never given a job by Thatcher; prime recruitment material by the opposition parties, but has announced he will be standing down at the next election, rather than following Emma Nicholson, in spite of sharing some of her views about the rightwing drift of the party.



Tim Rathbone, (Lewes) 62

A leading member of the One Nation Madeod

group. A caring Tory who dared to raise unpopular

drugs laws, and shared Emma Nicholson's concern

about post-Gulf war Iraq. Pro-European, and Liber-

als in past generations of the family, but said yes-

terday he would not defect. Will fight next election

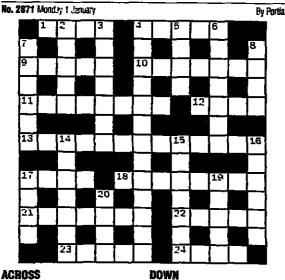
to defend One Nation principles in the Tory party.

causes, such as electoral reform, reform of the

George Walden, 59, (Bucking Brainy maverick, seen as a wild card - announced his retirement from the Commons because of his general dissatisfaction with Parliament. Shows no sign of defecting but the Tory whips will be watching Bargain breaks for the

Ian Paisley, have a pivotal role all-party talks. concise crossword

The nine Ulster Unionists



and the three DUP MPs, led by Sinn Fein remain barred from

Computer storage facil-

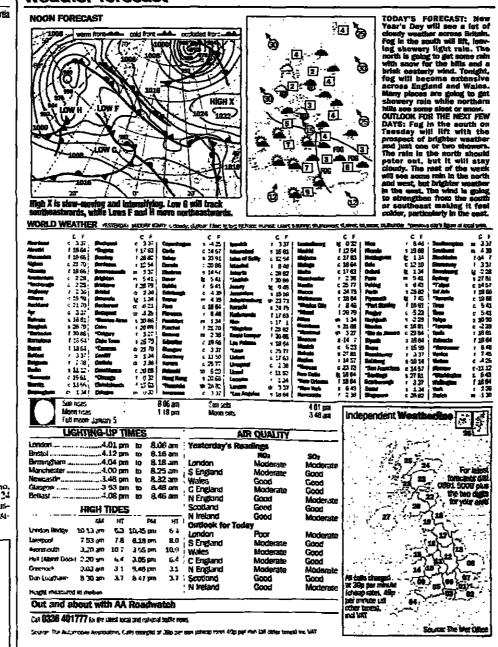
- Yorkshire city (5) 10 Connection (7) 11 Wellington Victory (8) 12 Axe handle (4) 13 Plane four-sided figure
- (13) 17 Wild party (4) 18 Remarkable type (8) 21 Stroke of luck (7) 22 Overturn (5) 23 Tidal bore (5) 24 Orient (4)
- Unskilful (5) Small falcon (7) Remain silent (4.4.5)
- Slightly open (4) Lose hope (7) Inflate (4.2) Bloodsucker (4) Income (7) 15 Stop up (7)
- 16 Tiny (6) 17 Gem (4) I^Q Jewish patriarch (5) 20 Catch (4)

Solution to Saturday's Concise Crossword:

Aeruss: 1 Winch, 4 Esther (Winchester), 9 Siamese, 10 Surge, 11 Echo, 12 Itemise, 13 Sin, 14 Omit, 16 Seek, 18 Due, 20 Resolve, 21 Ease, 24 Twist, 25 Victory, 26 School, 27 Siege, Down: 1 Wasted, 2 Neath, 5 Suspense, 6 Heroine, 7 Recked, 8 Begin, 13 and 3 Silietto Heel, 15 Messaah, 17 Gratis, 18 Delve, 19 Retype, 22 Atone, 23 Ices

Notes

Weather forecast



Labour threatens to expel Scargill

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Arthur Scargill and other left-The threat came after union was first suggested by Mr Scargill, president of the Na-tional Union of Mineworkers.

Officials at Walworth Road

all those attending did so in a personal capacity and without the authority of the RMT The

Unison: Usdaw, the shopworkers' union; the National Union of Teachers and the Transport & General were also present. Some of them, however, have expressed doubts about the viability of the new grouping.

wingers have been warned they will be expelled from Labour if they press ahead with their plans for a new socialist party. activists met in secret in December to plan the constitution of the new organisation, which

said that anyone joining would face automatic expulsion."If they plan to fight Labour in any form of elections, or if they form a party within a party, they will be in breach of our rules and will have their membership suspended," the spokesman said.
Invitations to the meeting were issued by Pat Sikorski, a representative of London Underground workers on the national executive of the RMT transport union. A spokesman for the union said yesterday that

union could not dictate to which party its members or officers Delonged.
Officials from other unions such as the public service union,



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End of the line: Borge Ousland, the Norwegian explorer who decided to halt his solo attempt to cross the Antarctic after suffering frostbite Norwegian abandons polar trek

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Borge Ousland, the Norwegian attempting to walk alone across the Antarctic - the last great challenge in polar exploration - has given up his attempt because of frostbite, two weeks after his British rival also conceded defeat.

Within hours of learning that Ousland had been airlifted out, Roger Mear announced that he would return to Antarctica next autumn for another attempt at the 1.657-mile crossing.

Using skis and pulling a sledge with 450lb of supplies. the 45-year-old mountain guide from Derbyshire covered 424 miles in 42 days before deciding he was going too slowly. He blamed difficult snow conditions and tracking problems with his sledge, but remained convinced a solo, unsupported crossing was possible.

Despite the strong echoes of the Amundsen-Scott race to the difficulties facing anyone who South Pole, both explorers attempts it." expressed sympathy at the misfortunes of their rival.

Mear said he hoped Ousland's frostbite injuries were not hoped to complete in 100 days. serious. "His failure to complete Ousland was focusing on the the crossing, even after being re- solo aspect. Relying on resupplied at the South Pole, supply, he was able to start out puts into perspective the mag-nitude of the journey and the than Mear's.

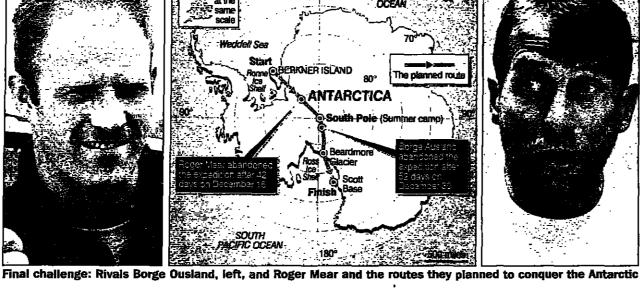


The caveat was significant.

Mear pulled all his supplies for

an unsupported crossing he

with a load some 85lb lighter



so inflamed he realised it would

be folly to continue. Behind the cruel necessity to pull out was an almost amateur miscalculation by the most experienced of solo polar trav-

The Norwegian was airlifted ellers. "In retrospect he should both the North and South Poles to safety four days after leaving have used one extra pair of unthe South Pole on the second leg derpants for that particular of his crossing. Frostbite on the day," said the expedition inside of his thighs had become spokesman Hans Christian spokesman Hans Christian Erlandsen.

Ousland was resting yesterday in Punta Arenas in southern Chile. He was "disappointed" but had the consolation of becoming the first person to ski to

alone and unsupported by preplaced supplies or air drops.

The 33-year old former deep sea diver took only 44 days to greeted as "very interesting". reach the South Pole from Berkner Island by the Weddell Sea. Temperatures fell to as low

Adjusting clothing when the sun can give a warming im-

pression and whilst expending energy pulling a 450lb loaded sledge is a tricky business. On one day Ousland got it wrong and the biting cold sowed his downfall. "He should have had more on that day. It's easy to say so afterwards," Mr Erlandsen

told the Independent.
Ousland left the United States base at the South Pole on Christmas Day and covered another 40 miles before calling for help.

Because of the walking the frostbite had no opportunity to heal. It was rubbing all the time. After the pole the inflammation became even worse on one side and it dug in deeper. Borge understood it had no

chance of healing by itself." Ousland was seen by a doctor at the US base who confirmed the correctness of the

expedition. As to whether he will try again. Mr Erlandsen has so far been too delicate to press his friend. But the news that Roger

Mear was to try again was The history of polar explo-ration strongly suggests that in less than 12 months both men ALBARN, LOU REED, **OASIS** and **EDWYN COLLINS**.

will be pitting themselves against the same unforgiving

cash-starved courses. Other radical options which may be proposed in the aftermath of the cuts could include charging top-up fees and tar-geting a handful of friendly Tory MPs who might be persuaded to rebel on behalf of the universities. Some universities may be forced to cut numbers. or to recruit more foreign students, who pay higher fees.

The vice-chancellors will meet to discuss a range of proposals amid growing frustration and anger over university funding. Earlier last month they re-fused to hear a speech by Eric Forth, the education minister, which was due to have been read to them by a senior civil servant. Instead they issued a statement saying that the cuts were "catastrophic" and that they would have to cut student

sector, but universities say this is unlikely to happen. Cuts of a further £50m are being made in

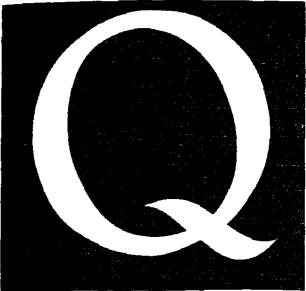
their day-to-day spending. Vice-chancellors have called for a scheme under which students would repay part of their fees, and this will also be discussed at their next meeting. But neither of the main political parties is likely to commit itself to such a proposal before the next

general election. The executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) will meet this month to draw up a range of options to be discussed when more than 100 university heads meet next month. These are likely to include a boycott of the Teaching Quality Assessments, which are carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

One vice-chancellor, who did not want to be named, said a number of his colleagues would support this option. "There are certainly some vice-chancellors who now believe it will not be possible to maintain quality in this funding regime, and so one option likely to be discussed is the extent to which full participation in quality assessment should be maintained," he said.

A HEFCE spokesman said it was working closely with the vice-chancellors to develop quality assurance arrangements. In the light of the progress being made it would be extremely surprising if the CVCP wished to take any action which would harm this process."

New issue OUT NOW!



"I'm there. I'm with The Beatles."



Oh brother! In this month's Q, Oasis leader Noel Gallagher on fame, family, finance, fate, fraternal fisticuffs and far more besides.

PLUS! FREE TAPE!

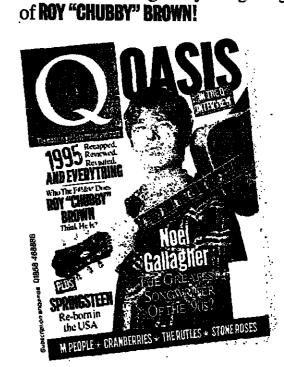
30 minutes of televisual tantalisation! Exclusive to Q, Channel 4's acclaimed rock-centric show The White Room presents the musical

inaugural series, including top turns from PAUL WELLER, **RAY DAVIES & DAMON**

COLUMN

The ultimate review of 1995! An almanacular extravaganza featuring the all the albums, artists and aggro...

The return of **BRUCE** SPRINGSTEEN, the rebirth of **THE STONE ROSES**, the rise of **M PEOPLE**, the reminiscences of THE RUTLES. Plus ripping reviews of TORI AMOS, THE CRANBERRIES and **EAST 17** and the right royal rogering



WE'RE GONNA LIVE FOREVER.

Joint investigation: Detectives reconsider possibility of a link between murders Student may have been victim of Midlands Ripper

WILL BENNETT

In November, senior officers from four police forces met to discuss whether a serial killer, who has already been dubbed the "Midland Ripper", is op-erating in parts of the Midlands and northern England.

It was not the first such meeting, another took place in August 1994, because although many detectives are sceptical about the serial killer theory they are also haunted by the possibility that they might have another "Yorkshire Ripper" on

After their last meeting, which discussed five murders of young women in the Midlands and the North, detectives admitted that there were similarities between the killings, but murdered by a serial killer. dismissed the possibility that one man was responsible.

they might have been wrong sur-faced once again with the sug-Tracy Turner, one of the five dis-victims there was no evidence a building site on 3 July 1994.



Samo Pauli: strangled and her half-naked body dumped

gestion that Celine Figard, 19, the French student whose body was found near Worcester on Friday, may have been

Chief Superintendent John McCammont, of West Mercia

possibility that the serial killer was responsible for five deaths around the country," he said. Miss Turner, 32, from Stafford, was last seen alive at

a service station on the M6 in Staffordshire in March 1994. She was a prostitute who plied her trade from motorway service stations in the Midlands. Her naked body was found in a ditch near Bitteswell in Leicestershire, just four miles from Swinford, where Samo Pauli was found dead three months earlier.

Miss Paull, 20, from Rowley Regis, West Midlands. was also a prostitute and worked in the red light area of Balsall Heath in Birmingham. She had been Yesterday, the possibility that they might have been wrong sur-

cussed at the meetings. "In of a sexual assault. The third viction discussed by detectives at the meetings was Dawn Shields. Midlands, Lincolnshire and 19, a prostitute whose body South Yorkshire discussed the was found in a shallow grave covered by stones at Mam Tor in the Peak District in Der-byshire in May 1994. She too

had been strangled In August 1994, the naked body of Julie Finley, 23, was found dumped in a field by a lovers lane near Skelmersdale, Lancashire. Like the other victims, Miss Finley, a suspected drug addict who is thought to have mixed with prostitutes. had been strangled.

Police also discussed the murder of Julie Clayton, an Australian hitch-hiker, but her killer, Denzil Walker, was sentenced to life imprisonment a month ago. They are keeping an open mind about the murder of Sharon Harper, 21, a barmaid, from Grantham, Lincolnshire,

Foreign students hitch despite risks

WILL BENNETT

The death of Celine Figard has served as a brutal warning of the dangers of hitch-hiking, particularly for young women

The publicity given to such dangers has led to a huge reduction in the number of hitchtikers in Britain since the like Celine. The day after the dis-seventies when they were a com-covery of Celine Figard's naked not hitch on my own."

also contributed to the decline, with many more young people either owning cars or coming from families with more than one vehicle which they can

borrow for long journeys.

Many of those still hitching in Britain are foreign students,

mon sight on every major road. body, Same Ehbel, 19, and Pe-Increased car ownership has tra Sprey, 20. from the Netherlands, seemed oblivious of the risks. They were hitching near lift to Ilfracombe, Devon. They said they did not have enough money to travel by train.

Ms Ehbel said: "I did hear not frightened. I probably would

Ms Sprey added: "It does worry me a bit, but you have to think in a positive way. There are two of us and not everybody Bath, Somerset, trying to get a is bad, but I think it is really sad what happened to the French girl. People have been very nice and helpful. They always take us where we want to go and about the French girl, but I am I have not been frightened. It is more exciting to hitch-hike. You get to meet new people."

Universities in boycott threat over funding

Education Correspondent

Universities may boycott government inspections of their teaching in protest at spending cuts of more than £100m announced in the Budget. At a meeting next month, vice-chancellors will argue that they should no longer co-operate with the quality assessments because they can no longer guarantee the quality of their

numbers to cope. The Government says universities can make up for cuts of £51m in their building and refurbishment programmes in the next three years by striking up partnerships with the private

Military chiefs reviewed plan to invade Rhodesia

JOHN CROSSLAND

Harold Wilson's aversion to making war on our "kith and kin" in rebel Rhodesia did not all its equipment in Africa prevent the defence planners of the Chiefs of Staffs Committee from drawing up a contingency plan for invading the country. Evidence that the most ex-

treme option was seriously considered after the Unilateral Declaration of Independence of 11 November 1965 emerged by accident from today's release of 30-year State papers at the Public Record Office. The file, marked "UK Eyes Only, Top Secret", is dated 5 February 1966 and should have been re-

leased with next year's papers.
The Ministry of Defence's planners strongly advised the supposing that there would at Government against military intervention. They said "the consequences of failure would be appalling", and insisted the plan must avoid risks which in other circumstances would be acceptable. There was no direct access by sea and the only land access available entailed a journey of more than 1,000 miles on inadequate roads. "The invasion of a country with Rhodesia's military capability under these conditions would, we believe, be without precedent."

A conventional assault might succeed with a ground force of five brigades, aided by pre-emptive air strikes against Roy-

al Rhodesian Air Force airfields. However, "the introduction of the force into Rhodesia at Limited War Scales and its maintenance there, with the exception of fuel, would have to be carried out entirely by air," bility of our airlift is such that

could introduce and maintain to Salisbury precludes the would be two brigades, three delivery of a full commando. short of the required force. The assembly of this force with would take two and a half months and its introduction from there into Rhodesia would take another month."

Any reinforcements would mean stripping our existing Far Eastern and BAOR forces.

The paper, which was circulated among the chiefs of staff, said "striking the first blow at Rhodesian forces would have the most serious implications, not least of which would be the strain on the loyalty of our own units". It goes on: "Our current intelligence assessments do not give us any grounds for present be anything but wholehearted European opposition to any UK force introduced into

The planners offer some cold comfort in a tentative American offer of C130 transport aircraft and suggest Umtali as the best landing ground, as it was lightly defended and could be seized in a paratroop attack They warn against underes-

timating the Rhodesian air force, commanded by Ian Smith, a former fighter pilot. "Even after our pre-emptive strike we could not guarantee that the RRAF would not have some Hunter or Vampire aircraft still serviceable. A threat to transport aircraft would remain against which we should have to provide air cover."

Salisbury, the capital, would be the main target of invasion. "We could only deliver two parachute battalions over a 24hour period and the distance from commando ships off Beira will have to be offered"

The Rhodesians would be able to field 11 and one-third major army units in a few days, only one containing black Africans.
"To intervene with a reason-

able chance of success against such opposition, fighting stubbornly on its own ground, assisted by small ad hoc bands of guerrillas and perhaps white po-lice, would require five brigades with artillery support." The anners reluctantly advised: "In the existing circumstances British forces could not intervene successfully in Rhodesia. There are no alternative options between a full-scale military intervention and introducing troops by invitation."

Other papers released reveal that Mr Wilson had no basis for making his famous prediction that the rebellion could be ended "within a matter of weeks rather than months". Intelliments were that the Rhodesian regime could probably survive economic sanctions indefinitely.

The releases include a Foreign Office briefing paper on various options considered by the Government in the face of UDL It points out that "if the going got really rough" many Rhodesians "should begin to wonder whether the sort of life they want might not be more readily available in South Africa or Australia".

Unlike the Boers, they lacked a substantial number of longtime settlers. The paper goes on:
"If disillusion of this kind is to be created among the white Rhodesians we shall need the carrot as well as the stick. Financial and other inducements



Marcia's battle for official respect

JOHN RENTOUL

The release of the 1965 papers sheds new light on Harold Wilson's unconventional political relationship with Marcia Williams, his personal political secretary, and her bitter battle with Downing Street officials, who resented her influence.

Wilson caused a classic civil servants' flurry in June when he scribbled "I should like Marcia to see all these in future" on the cover of a folder of confidential

Cabinet papers. Derek Mitchell, Wilson's principal private secretary, wrote a minute on 28 June pointing out that the particular folder included two intelligence reports, "one Secret and one Top Secret".

Trend, the Cabinet Secretary, and George Wigg, a minister who advised Wilson on securi-

Papers released today under the 30-year rule include Harold

Wikson's proposal, agreed by the

Cabinet on 5 August 1965, to

bring in the 30-year rule itself. The Prime Minister suggested

that the new administration

should take a step towards

more open government by cut-ting the previous 50-year em-

bargo on most official papers.

of Contemporary History at

Queen Mary and Westfield

Peter Hennessy, Professor

You said that you would like Marole to see in Inture

'Marcia should see Secret and Confidential papers, Wilson said in a 1965 Cabinet paper released today

should see Secret and Confi- able to quite a number of mindential papers dealing with do- isters, but he would not press the mestic subjects." But he noted point."

place in history which was over-

looked when he died was what

he did for the study of history

itself. If it had not been for

Harold Wilson taking the lead,

both within his Cabinet and in

Parliament, in reducing the 50-

year rule for secret documents

to 30 years, we would only now

be beginning to look at classi-fied state material for the post-

the Cabinet argued that the ear-

lier release of papers could

Wilson's memorandum to

war period."

itors." He suggested "an in-tray in the strongroom near the duty clerk", adding conde-scendingly: "She will of course appreciate that these classified papers should not be left lying about when she is not in the room: nor of course should she make copies of them, take ex-

them in correspondence." Mitchell added a handwritten postscript: "Marcia is content,

tracts from them, or refer to

so off we go." The issue returned to haunt Wilson and Marcia, by then Lady Falkender, in 1977, in the recriminations which followed Wilson's resignation and Minister's suite of rooms locked the "Lavender List" of resignation at all times. Lady Falkender was nation honours submitted on er writing paper. Defending slightly uneasy as regards Cabinet Conclusions [minutes of curity, arising from the fact weening influence, Lady Falkherself from charges of over-Cabinet decisions] on the that Marcia works in a room ender wrote in the Observer: "I

documents.' She was backed by Wilson

himself in a television interview: "She did not see any secret documents, or other classified doc-The documents uments." released today show this to be untrue.

They also tell the quainth ridiculous story of Lady Falkender's attempts to soundproof the partition between her office This involved the Security Service in a review of the arrangements for keeping the Prime natronised again, this time by jeant at Arms, who asked her to "remind your girls" of the need

Mountbatten's secret role in 'propaganda war'

What posture should the Oneen's cousin adopt if he met the rebel leader? Prime Minisstiffly and condescendingly and treat as a private person," writes John Crossland

What if there is a demonstration outside Government House? Prime Minister's suggested answer: "Rely on tall guardsmen." What if no clearance for landing the royal plane? This would merely show the rebel leader's loyalty to the Queen as "completely bogus rather than constitute a saub for the Queen herself". This is not a plot for a Fey-

deau farce. It is the scenario for mission dreamed up by Harold Wilson when Prime Minister for reasserting royal authority in Rhodesia in 1965. He envisaged Lord Mounthatten flying into Salisbury at a few hours notice on the pretext of investing the beleaguered govwith the KCVO, but actually to vember 1965: "The deplorable



Lord Mountbatten: Agreed Wilson plan to foil rebels

rally loyal support and score a propaganda victory. Mountbatten, approached informally by the prime minister, responded enthusiastically. He wrote to Wilson on 19 No-

situation in Rhodesia is getting worse and the effect on the Commonwealth and on our reons with the Afro-Asian bloc may be disastrous if no active steps are taken. This step can hardly fail to help our cause if we collect my party in secrecy and only ask for Rhodesian... clearance two hours before take-off.

"We shall have had the publicity on take-off for the world e, that we meant business if the Rhodesians subsequently refused to let us land. I shall be seeing Her Majesty this evening at Luton Hoo and will ask her not to allow any consideration for my safety to influence her decision."

The Queen, who may already have heard of another eccentric Government scheme to win hearts and minds by scattering leaflet appeals to loyalty in her name over the Rhodesian bush veldt, asserted her royal prerogative to abort

ty, he suggested: "Marcia ground that these are not avail- which is often left unattended was not concerned with gov-

Records show 30 years of the 30-year rule

to the greater efficiency of current policy-making and administration". But there were also less elevated motives. Most of the "advance of our Colonies" towards independence had taken place in the previous 40 years and, "if we do not write the history of this process, the newly independent governments of those countries will". A 30-year rule

"might also help to reduce the

public understanding of con-

temporary issues and contribute

are considerably more generous in allowing access to their documents than we are to ours and whose records include a number of documents originating in this country, to which historians can obtain access in the United States but not here".

sometimes find ourselves in re-

lation to the practice of the

United States government, who

In a radio interview with Professor Hennessy in 1985, Lord Wilson said he had wanted to reduce the "closed period" to 25 years, but that Ted Heath, whom Professor Hennessy said.

Utopian idealism

gives way to

he consulted as Leader of the Opposition, did not agree. Wilson said: "He wanted 50. Then I said. 'Well look, we obviously don't agree. I'm going to make this an election issue in the next election.' He then not very

happily accepted 30,"
The 30-year rule was enacted in 1967, and came into effect in 1972. "But for Harold, this annual dash to the Public Record Office to unearth

College, London, said yester-day: "One aspect of Wilson's "promote a more informed Early evidence of Wilson's press paranoia

JOHN RENTOUL

Despite the overwhelmingly favourable tone of most press coverage of the new Labour government, Harold Wilson began to complain about the newspapers almost from the start.

Throughout 1965, he devoted considerable amounts of the Cabinet's time to lectures about the need for strict confiusually obsessed in the activities of one journalist, Anthony Howard, the Sunday Times's

ister wishes to know whether your minister has recently spoken with or given an interview to Anthony Howard, the soidisant Whitehall correspondent of the Sunday Times; and, if so, where and when precise-ly the discussion took place."

Mitchell reported to Wilson that it turned out that Howard "seems to be an old friend of both ministers and will presumably not wish to cause undue embarrassment to them", but went on: "There remains the problem of putting him in baulk in the longer term." He new Whitehall correspondent. noted: "Howard would be a dis-On 21 January. Derek turbing influence if, as you Mitchell, Wilson's private secretary, wrote a peremptory let-ter to the private secretaries of around Whitehall in search of

At its meeting on 22 Febru-ary, Wilson said he "felt bound to draw the Cabinet's attention to a new and potentially dangerous development of press technique". This turned out to mean the technique of inter-viewing people and writing about disagreements within the government. Howard had written a well-informed article the previous day "which purported to describe a conflict of view between the Department of Economic Affairs and the

economic policy". The Prime Minister's respouse, just four months after the Labour government was elected, shows that his paranoid

Treasury about the direction of

inet that the article "repre-sented a novel challenge to the established conventions governing the conduct of public

According to the Diaries of

Richard Crossman, Minister for Housing, Wilson then forbade ministers to speak to Howard. The Cabinet minutes do not record this instruction, but Mitchell wrote two days later: "We are to tighten up the instructions to ministers - and departments - on the rules governing relations with the press and to mount a blockade against Anthony Howard personally

Mitchell issued new orders to Wilson's ministers on 26 February: "It will therefore be a firm

that ministers should not give press interviews, whether attributably or unattributably, except in the presence of a reliable riness such as a public relations officer or a private secretary."
As for Howard, "ministers should refuse him any facilities

for the fulfilment of his task". This prompted one mildly sarcastic reply from Ian Smart, private secretary to George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, asking if his minister were allowed to lunch "tête-a-tête" with journalists. Mitchell scribbled on the letter: "I propose to tell this chap (orally) not to ask silly questions."

Trevor Lloyd-Hughes, Wilson's press secretary, added his comment: "A hunch is not an



Anthony Howard: Pioneer of

economic reality Labour came to power in 1964 sterling crisis, which Mr Wilson with a blithe faith in the power of economic planning. But the loss of innocence at the heart of government was rapid. On 18 January, Jim Callaghan, on to rancellor, told the Cabinet that the 25 per cent target for growth by 1970 was for the purposes of "industrial planning and public presentation". For

internal government purposes, the assumption was "slightly the assumption was lower", 22.5 per cent. The needs of "public prewhen he planned his first Budget. On 8 March, he wrote to the Prime Minister. Harold Wilson, proposing a new format for the Budget. "The existing form of Financial Statement might

favourable light, particularly internationally," he said. His proposed format "di-

rects attention away from the old overall deficit or borrowing requirement". Mr Wilson approved and the change was made, but international investors were unimpressed. In July, there was a minor

"certain schemes of social im-portance", such as the abolition of National Health Service charges. "If the Government intended in any case to postpone these projects for a time, it would be well to announce this now in the context of the economic difficulties," he told the Cabinet on 28 July.

By the time the draft of the first five-year National Plan was discussed at full Cabinet on sentation" were also at the front of Mr Callaghan's mind when he planned his first Bud-touch with the harsh realities of the economic situation.

The draft was subjected to withering criticism by Sir Burke Trend, the Cabinet Secretary, writing to Mr Wilson the day present the Budget in an unbefore the Cabinet meeting. "Will this be credible and

convincing?" he asked, of the 5.25 per cent annual export growth target. And he described the idea that "an encouraging start has been made" to the Government's incomes policy as "surely optimistic". But the Cabinet seemed to have lost interest in the Plan.

two ministers: "The Prime Min-departmental differences." the beginning. He told the Cab-rule, to be vigilantly observed, Cabinet's U-turn on election pledge to halt rail cuts

"I am very worried about this. denunciations from the Labour Our election pledge was clear to halt major closures," Harold Wilson wrote on his copy of the minutes of a Cabinet subcommittee on 15 February 1965 which discussed proposed rail closures, writes John Rentoul.

The Conservative government had started closing large parts of the rail network after the publication of the Beeching Report in 1963, provoking angry but not put into effect.

Party. Wilson himself personally condemned the closure programme in the 1964 election campaien, but within a week of coming to office the Labour Cabinet started to retreat, noting on 22 October 1964 that its manifesto pledge "appeared likely to be misconstrued" as including the reversal of closures already approved by the Tories

Tom Fraser, the Minister of cussed the issue on 11 March, Transport, clarified the pledge, saying that Labour could not reverse closures already agreed. But in February 1965, Wilson noted: "Now we seem to be going much further - the Aylesbury line really is a major closure and we do not appear to be halting it ... Has the time not come to review the whole policy at Cabinet?"

By the time the Cabinet dis-

the U-turn was well under way, Under pressure from backbench Labour MPs to stop all further closures, Tom Fraser wanted Cabinet backing to con-tinue. He suggested: "It would help to put the Government's policy in better perspective" if the Railways Board could be persuaded to propose a few closures just so that he could

The Government's policy of agreed that the chance to reject resisting "clearly unacceptable" closures, he said, "could be shown to be really effective by arranging for a small number of such proposals to be brought forward in the near future for rejection".

Railways Board "had preferred to withdraw one case of this kind rather than to allow it to be rejected". -The Cabinet

a major passenger-line closure would be "advantageous". Later in the year, Fraser covered himself in glory by rejecting the closure of the Fort William to Mallaig line.

However, after the Labour The trouble was that the MPs hate-figure, Dr Beeching, retired as chairman of the Railways Board in June, the cuts gathered pace, in the cause of "modernisation".

Villagers branch out to make forest community business



Scotland Correspondent

Highlanders are set to make history this year by trying to establish Britain's first community-run commercial forest. Villagers in Laggan, near Inverness, are to launch a take-over bid for the 3,500-acre Strathmashie forest, owned by the Forestry Commission.

They won the right to make the bid after appealing to Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland. Impress by their vision of an expanding Forsyth ordered the commission to enter negotiations.

The move is part of Mr Forsyth's new policy of devolving power to communities and follows his announcement that crofters will be given the chance to take over government-owned estates. He hopes voters will find his brand of "real devolu-tion to real local communities" more attractive than Labour's plans for legislative devolution, with a Scottish parliament in Edinburgh. Historians say Mr Forsyth's initiative marks a radical polit- as Bottom the weaver and

ical shift, with Scots Tories Sanug the joiner, but now they abandoning their unquestioning have to take us seriously." support for large landowners. Dr James Hunter, an expert on land use in the Highlands, explained: "In the past, Tory politicians have tended to side with landowners and landowning bodies because, frankly, ers. But Forsyth is different. He comes from an ordinary background and is far less patrician. His moves so far have been

almost revolutionary." The Laggan project is the Toxies boldest land reform intiative. Strathmashie forest is worth up to £1m to the Forestry Commission: Villagers want to take it over because, they say, the commission has failed to ex-ploit the asset and halted commercial logging 10 years ago.
Villagers want to re-introduce

commercial logging and attract tourists by offering mountain walking, mountain biking, go-karting and deer stalking. Their campaign is led by Ian Richardson, a retired doctor,

sion. "At first they dismissed us

have to take us seriously. Dr Richardson insists that a takeover will secure the future have lost two thirds of our population with people moving away to Inverness and Fort William There are only a hand-

greatest asset is the forest." Although the Forestry Commission insists that if Strathmashie is sold, it must go to the highest bidder. Dr Richardson is hopeful that with Government backing a deal can be struck to manage the forest be-

ment will benefit the entire area. "It's about empowerment. When you give people control over their own lives they work harder than ever to make sure things succeed. Walking around

in Gulf war 'due to MoD interference'



General Sir Peter de la Billiere: oversaw operations

and marks the fifth anniversary of the 1991 conflict. During the war Sir Peter oversaw the operations of British troops, sailors and airmen.

In the film, he says that the loss of some of the Tornados could have been averted if the RAF had switched from low to high-level bombing sooner. It is understood Sir Peter and the RAF commander in Saudi Arahia. Air Vice Marshal Bill Wratten, recommended the switch and that the joint commander of the operation, based in Britain. Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, agreed with them. But a "senior officer" in the MoD, who could only have been the Chief of Defence Staff, demurred.

"It was a decision of substantial magnitude," Sir Peter says. "It was going to impact on

the whole of the RAF's strategy as developed for Europe and out it into question . . indeed. I saw a letter from a senior Air Force officer in the MoD [believed to be Sir David] saying in effect that if we changed it, [i.e. switching from low- to high-level bombing] then my air commander wasn't doing his job. I've never seen such a

disgraceful letter in my life." Interviewed for the series, the United States air commander in the Gulf, Lt-Gen "Chuck" Horner, said: "I don't think there's any doubt about it. The Tornado losses were in part due to the low-altitude tactics." Lt-Gen Horner suggests that he was relieved when the British changed their tactics, but said

GR1 jet bombers in the Gulf when the war began on 16-17 January 1991. In exercises sim-- to avoid radar when attacking

particular senior officer in the

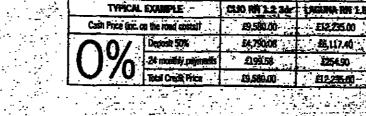
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been no decrease in the number of people who have been

ful of youngsters left out of the 200 people who live here. We will have no future unless we use our assets carefully - and our fore taking over control later. Villagers have a powerful ally in the owner of a local estate. Roy Tylden-Wright, who runs the 11,000-acre Cluny es-

Britons died

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

Four British airmen and up to four Tornado aircraft may have beginning of the Gulf war because of "disgraceful interference" by a senior officer at the Ministry of Defence, the former commander of the British forces says in a forthcoming documentary.

The senior officer is believed to be Marshal of the RAF Sir David Craig, then Chief of Defence Staff. The claim is made by General Sir Peter de la Billiere, now retired, in a BBC1 documentary series, The Gulf War, which begins on 9 January

he could not force them to.
The RAF had 45 Tornado ulating a war against the Sovi-et bloc, the RAF had developed

tactics of low-level bombing -down to 50 feet during daylight heavily defended targets. The RAF used the same tactics at the start of the Gulf war. Apart from the very first night,

the Americans flew at medium (15,000 to 20,000 feet) and high level. The RAF changed its tactics when it became apparent that the Iraqi airfields were so vast it was impossible to close them down, and after the Americans had destroyed all the Iraqi radars which would direct missiles at higher flying aircraft. On the sixth day, concern at

the high level of RAF losses it had flown 4 per cent of the missions and lost 25 per cent of the aircraft, including four Tornados shot down - became public, but by that time the RAF had switched to higher-level attacks. Sir Peter claims the switch could have been made earlier. "They wouldn't change because it would impact on the RAF's future strategy for Europe . . . to suggest the low-level attack technique should go on is a load of absolute rubbish, though one

MoD was suggesting this."
The MoD has refused to comment on Sir Peter's claims of "disgraceful interference" until it had seen the

Armed forces ban on gays under fire REBECCA FOWLER four service personnel lost their cases against the armed forces

to confront the issue in the face of legal challenges. Although

Nicholas Soames, the armed in the High Court last year, they forces minister, is under growwould almost certainly win coming pressure to admit gays into pensation under European law. the military following a leaked An MoD spokeswoman stressed draft report from the Ministry any findings in the report were of Defence recommending a Gay campaigners said the

relaxation of the present ban. Despite the fierce opposition proposals do not go far enough to allowing homosexuals into to protect homosexuals in the the armed forces from the milmilitary. Angela Mason, direcitary command, an MoD committee set up to review the issue has concluded Britain should follow the "don't ask, don't tell" policy adopted by the United States. discharged on the grounds of homosexuality, and it effec-The Government was forced

tor of Stonewall, said: "We don't think the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy operated in the US is the way forward. There's

tively acts as a blanket ban."

news

Docklands railway excites bidders' interest

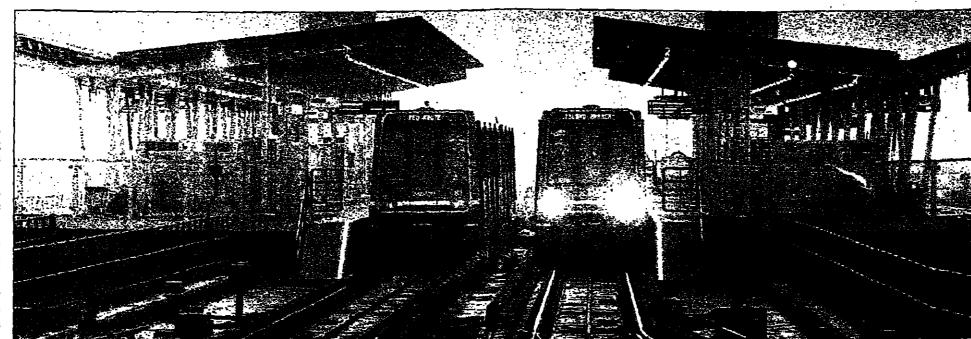
Loss-maker's future could hinge on extension south of Thames

WILL BENNETT

At first sight, bidding for the right to run the loss-making Docklands Light Railway in east London would seem guaranteed to give company directors sleepless nights and make shareholders decide to take their money elsewhere.

Yet last week 10 groups, including the Central London Bus Company and a management buy-out team, expressed an interest in running the DLR.

The clearest indication that this was not just foolish optimism was that those interested included Stagecoach. Britain's largest bus operator, whose founders, the brother-and-sister partnership of Ann Gloag and Brian Souter, have a reputation for ruthless hard-headedness. Earlier this month they were awarded the contract to run passenger services on South West



All change: Privatisation, the proposed southern extension and competition from the Tube extension could mean fare increases on the DLR

Trains, one of the first former British Rail franchises to be

This interest comes despite the fact that this year the DLR

is expected to make an operating loss of £14m on revenues of private sector. £9m, which, although an improvement of £1.4m on 1994-95, would hardly seem to be the sort

of performance to excite the The light railway system connecting Docklands and parts of

break even until 2003 at the earliest and may lose many passengers to the Tube on the opening the East End to the City will not

The first factor encouraging interest from the private sector is that the DLR, although it has some way to go before it wins the affection of its regular pas-

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

sengers, has substantially improved its reliability and has extended its services to late evenings and weekends during

the past two years.
This year there have been two derailments and a number of delays to services, which some employees blamed on cuts in maintenance staff, but many of the faults in the driverless, automatic system run by computers have now been ironed out.

Rufus Barnes, secretary of the London Regional Passengers Committee which represent public-transport users, said: "It has certainly improved and they have got to grips with the major problems of reliability. We have received very few complaints about the DLR this year, although that is not to say that there are not problems from time to time.

'The problem was that it was built on a shoestring and, having been built that way, proposals were in place to build extensions to it before it was even opened. The computer system that operated it really was not up to the extensions that were made to it."

Michael Schabas, a transport consultant, said: "It has improved enormously but it has still got some way to go. London Transport, who ran it originally, did not realise what they were getting into."

The cost of the DLR has been 10 times the £7/m.spent on building the original, limited service. Since then the Government has thrown money at the project which has now cost

£800m. In 1992, almost five years after it opened, the DLR was transferred from London Transport to the control of the London Docklands Development Corporation. The following year Brown and Roof Projects were appointed as prime contractors" responsible for completing the upgrading of the DLR and improving its relia-bility and were given strict targets with payment related to

As services have improved and more companies have tak-en offices in the Canary Wharf development, daily passenger numbers have doubled to about 50,000. But many of these users will defect to the underground system when the Jubilee Line extension is finished, connecting the Wharf with central London.

This means that the success of privatisation will be heavily linked to that of the proposed extension of the DLR south of the Thames to Greenwich and Lewisham. The argument is that passengers lost to the rube will be replaced by tomists and south London commuters.

The contract to build the £130m three-mile extension under the river will be awarded in February. Originally the whole project, due to be completed in 1999, was to be privately financed but in August the Government agreed to put up £50m of public money.

However, even if the Lewisham extension is a success and the DLR's performance continues to improve, privatisation is still a gamble which will only be viable because the Government will subsidise the private operator until the service breaks even.

Would-be operators will have to submit estimates of the subsidy they will require, keeping them low enough to win the contract and high enough to be able to run the service at a profit. Under their contract they will not be able to cut services drastically and so staff redundancies and some fare increases may be

War crimes hearing set to cost £1.5m

STEPHEN WARD Legal Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first war crimes prosecution begins this week in Surrey, half a century after the end of the Nazi campaign of

mass murder. In the dock on Thursday in Dorking will be Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, a widower from Banstead, Surrey, who is facing four charges under the War Crimes Act of murdering Jews in Belarus - part of the former Soviet Union - in 1941. The 1991 Act allows people now living in Britain to be prosecuted for alleged offences committed in German-occupied territories

during the Second World War. Mr Serafinowicz has already been remanded three times on bail by Epsom magistrates. On his first appearance he was accompanied by an interpreter.

Committal proceedings at Dorking magistrates court, expected to last into April and to cost at least £1.5m, are only necessary because of a Home Office error in drafting the War Crimes Act. The Act included a clause allowing the commit-tal stage to be missed out, because of the advanced age of potential witnesses and defendants, but the drafting error meant the change did not take

As well as the extra cost, the mistake means witnesses may have to be flown into Britain twice to give the same evidence about harrowing events long in the past, and if the case is committed for trial at the Old Bailey, there will be a further long

The entire Dorking court building has been taken over for the event, with an annexe linked by closed-circuit television to house reporters and historians from around the world, facilities for court artists and even a media handbook.

This will be one of the last "old-style" committal proceedings, where prosecution witnesses give evidence in person and can be cross-examined by the defence. In most committals now, magistrates assess whether there is a prima facie case by reading the witnesses' written statements. Later this year the



Szymon

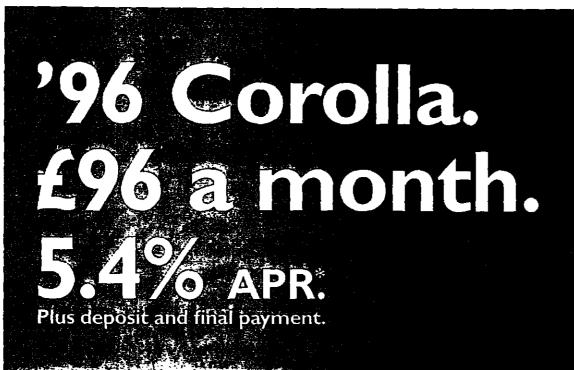
Home Office plans to abolish full committals.

Despite the facilities laid on for the media, nothing except the basic details of the charges can be reported for months ahead. If the case is not committed for trial, the full proceedings can be reported as soon as the decision is made. If the case is passed up to the Old Bailey, everything remains confidential until the end of a trial, to prevent a jury being prejudiced by what they might

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Peter Badge, will hear the case. Two top QCs have been retained: John Nutting by the prosecution, and William Clegg by Mr Serafinowicz, who is legally aided.

Court authorities have been told to expect up to 26 witnesses. many from abroad. The Crown Prosecution Service is likely to have to arrange for interpreters into three or more languages. and some witnesses may only be fit enough to give evidence for short periods before needing an adjournment to rest.

Previous commitments mean there will be only one day's hearing this week, then a resumption in mid-February for two weeks, before adjourning again until mid-April.



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Spotlight falls on

forgotten

'Nativity'

After 13 years lying virtually unseen in a studio, a priceless stained-glass window by the late John Piper has found a new home in timely fashion. The Nativity, designed by Piper in 1982 for an exhibition, "Prophecy and Vision", has been installed in one of Britain's foremost small Norman churches. St Mary the Virgin, at Iffley. Oxfordshire, already home to carvings dating from 1170 when it was built, is now home to the more recent attraction. Myfanwy Piper, widow of the artist who was one of the country's most revered stainedglass artists, donated the window to the church because of her husband's love of the area. He had famously illustrated the Shell guidebooks, written by his close friend the former Poet

JAN MacKINNON



story of the birth of Christ as relayed by a cockerel, a goose. a crow, an owl and a lamb. Piper's widow and family

they toured Britain.

joined the congregation at Si tion. The vicar, the Rev Peter Judd, said: "Iffley church is world famous for its carvings dating from the time it was built. Now we have something of unique importance from our

The Nativity depicts a fourthcentury Latin hymn telling the

Bishop calls for curbs on 'obscene' lottery jackpots

REBECCA FOWLER

The biggest National Lottery jackpot so far - £33m - has been branded "obscene" by a senior Anglican bishop, who says the Government should put a limit on prize money.

Ticket sales are expected to soar this week in anticipation of the record prize. Already 30 milay the lottery each week, and even in a normal rollover week, where the jackpot is carried over because there is no winner, sales go up by 20 per cent.

But the Bishop of Wake-field, the Right Rev Nigel Mc-Culloch, said: This is far too much. Anyone with any common sense knows that to win £33m in one go can have terrible effects. It can totally destroy lives and bring misery.

If an individual wins this week's jackpot - £11m higher than the last record jackpot of £22.8m, which was shared by two lottery players - he or she will automatically assume the same fortune as Nigel Mansell the motor-racing driver, who risked his life to rise to the top

The church, which has been one of the most outspoken crit-

up more than a year ago, has accused the lottery of creating a nation of gamblers, who pin all their hopes on the chance of a big win, even though the odds of taking a top prize are 1 in 14 million. "Sadly most of the concerns expressed by the House of Bishops when the lottery first started have been realised," said the Kev Eric 30 spokesman for Church House.

"The incomes of charities have diminished, those who can least afford it are spending beyond their means, and it is creating a something-fornothing culture. For a number of individuals who have won huge prizes, it's created an enormous lot of problems"

lottery tickets is £2.15, according to Camelot, compared to £2 on scratchcards, in the hope of winning the jackpot. It is most popular among C2s - skilled manual workers who make up 24 per cent of the population, but buy 31 per cent of tickets. The Bishop of Wakefield has

called for an all-party commission to investigate the effects of the lottery. According to Gamblers' Anonymous, it has received 17.5 per cent more calls

ics of the lottery since it was set for assistance since the lottery was set up. Some addicts are spending up to £150 a week on

tickets and scratchcards. But the Department of National Heritage, which is responsible for the lottery, and Camelot both defended the prizes this weekend. They say the rollovers maximise ticket sales, which ultimately benefits grants from the lottery.

A Camelot spokeswoman said: "As a result of rollovers ticket sales go up significantly, raising important additional funds for the good causes.

"Last week sales increased by around £10m, raising an extra approximate £2.5m for the good

The Government has resisted calls to cap prizes, because it says evidence from lotteries in other countries show that sales drop notably if the jack-pots diminish. The lottery is a great success and we are not going to apologise for that," a heritage department spokesman said. "It is very unlikely this double rollover will be won by a single person, because the large jackpots are usually shared, although we would not have a problem if it was."

In the third of a weekly series, Nicholas Schoon reports on plans for reviving the fortunes of the reclusive bittern

RSPB takes lead in drive to preserve bird's habitat

The bittern is one of the rarest British birds, with a breeding population totalling less than 50. A handsome, reclusive relative of the slightly larger and more common grey heron, it lives in reed marshes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Lancashire preying on fish, especially eels, frogs and occasionally on small <u>mamm</u>als and birds.

The golden-brown bitterns are hardly ever seen because they stay among the tail, dense reeds and are well camouflaged. The only way to estimate their breeding population is to listen for the strange, booming calls of the males trying to attract a mate from January to May. It is thought to be the deepest sound produced by any bird, a brief, fog-horn like tone which can be heard up to a mile away.

Last summer, 20 booming males were heard in Britain, up on the 16 detected in 1994. But 40 years ago there were more than four times as many and they had a much wider range.

The bittern is endangered in Britain and across Europe mainly due to destruction of its habitat Large areas of reedbed have been drained and gone un-



der the plough this century. The bird is one of the 116 declining or endangered British animal and plant species or one of the 14 types of dwindling habitat covered by new rescue plans drawn up by a steering group of government scientists and wildlife conservation groups. The Government has promised

to respond in the spring. Poisoning by pesticides, harsh winters, sewage pollution lowering fish populations and dis-



The bittern: Tends to live among tall, dense reeds

turbance by pleasure boating are also likely factors in the bit-tern's decline. What remains of their habitat in Britain has to be managed to preserve it. Trees and shrubs invade neglected reedbeds and they turn into boggy forests. So the reeds have to be cut back and allowed to regrow, and the water table kept high to bring in the bitterns.

Those that breed here already depend on nature reserves run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other orgamisations for their habitat.

The steering group proposes that by 2000 the population should be growing and expanding its range, reaching at least 100 booming males over the next quarter-century. This can be done by preserving the 22 remaining large reedbeds where bittern once occurred and creating 1,200 hectares of new habitat - about four and a half square miles.

The RSPB has made a start, purchasing a carrot field in Lakenheath, Suffolk, which will be turned into marshy reedbed. The steering group estimates the cost of the bittern recovery programme at £10,000 a year.



iper, donated by the artist's widow, Myfanwy Photograph: John Lawrence

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Sarajevo Serbs pack for final exodus

Rumours and blind panic trigger mass flight from city's contested suburbs, writes Emma Dalv

Vogosca, near Sarajevo - The couple, friendly and fluent, chatted easily, if a little anxiously, about the future --- until they posed for pictures before mounds of bags and boxes stacked in the hall.

Moments later, Jovanka Dzuric and her husband, Dobrivoje, were weeping incon-solably, their fear of life under enemy rule blotting out the familiar rigours of war. As Sarajevans prepared to celebrate their first peaceful New Year for four years -- in the prescuce of Bono, lead singer of U2 and self-described "first tourist" to post-war Bosnia, all is gloom and confusion across the line as the Orthodox Christmas ap-

The Dzuries, who will have little to celebrate, moved at the start of the Bosnian war in April 1992 from central Saraievo to the distant suburb of Vogosca, a dreary modern town known only for its Volkswagen Golf factory. The rebel Serb army soon took control of the suburb, and the Dzurics have spent the past four years in the relative comfort of an absent Muslim family's flat, protected from the worst of the shelling.

They are an average family: she, a typist, spent the war keeping house, her husband, a former waiter at the Hotel Europa in Sarajevo, was sent to the front, along with most Serb men aged 18 to 60. Both are used to taking orders, and nei-ther has had the power to affect the course of the conflict. But they have packed every last possession (save the coffee set and a few clothes) in preparation for what they see as an in-evitable exodus. When we fled Sarajevo we were too late to take all our things — this time we want to be ready," Mrs

Dzuric said with a laugh. By 3 February, the Bosnian Serb army will have withdrawn from Vogosca and four other suburbs: on 21 March, the Bosnian government will assume control. Most residents. in eastern Bosnia, where they like the Dzurics, are waiting to plan to store their possessions.



Moving on: Serbs from the Sarajevo suburb of Ilizdza, due to be handed over to Muslims, take a last look at home before leaving by bus for Pale

see, but making ready to leave. They have nowhere to go just in case. They are living in an anxious limbo, taunted by their leadership's insistence on a new "solution" for Sarajevo,

and a rewriting of the Dayton peace plan to divide the city. "We were helping my sister to pack yesterday," Mrs Dzuric said. "She left last night for Zvornik a town on the Serbian border]. She has left with her furniture and she will not be back." Trucks are parked on the street outside, waiting for new customers: it cost Mrs Dzurie's sister 1.000 Deutschmarks to move. The hall is crammed with bags, boxes and rolled carpets, but the couple cannot afford the transport to a cellar in Bratunac, a Serb-held town

save their flat in Sarajevo, now home to Muslim refugees, they think — but go they shall.

"How can we stay? I'm afraid of their government taking over," Mrs Dzuric said. "I could have staved in Sarajevo in 1992 but I had very terrible experiences ... we lived in a building with Muslim families and we would greet one another with Good day, or Good afternoon'. But from the moment of the declaration of independence, they began to say 'Salaam alcikum' [Peace be with you]." Mrs Dzuric says she was threatened for not using the Arabic greeting.
Such incidents, while un-

comfortable, do not merit a niche in the catalogue of Bosnia's war horrors. Yet Mr house. Most probably it was a Bosnia, regardless of their own on the potential loss of their

and Mrs Dzuric are convinced that it is but a short step from "hello" to a final goodbye. They assured us that President Alija Izetbegovic had promised to jail every Serb soldier for six years - a report that had escaped the away. The likelihood is that Mrs Dzuric's relative was killed by notice of the international press. They had not heard him Serb fire, yet her death is takthemselves, but friends had seen him on television ... Thus the flow of information works

in the Bosnian Serb statelet, the Republika Srpska. Propaganda is so pervasive that wild rumours are received like gospel and stories are woven to fit the politically correct view.

"I know what happened to my relatives in Sarajevo," Mrs Dzuric said firmly, "My sisterin-law was killed. We were only told that she was killed in her

sniper." It emerged that she had been killed in August 1995, and that she lived in Hrasno, a selves in one breath. district where all live in mortal danger — from Serb snipers across the front line 50 yards

en as proof of the Bosnian government's evil intent. Neither Mrs Dzuric nor her husband seem to be extreme nationalists; they are "Yugo-nostalgies". Mr Dzuric carries in the

pocket of his camouflage jack-et a well-kept black-and-white photo of himself as a stiff young waiter standing by Marshal Tito. Their fear stems from rumour, conjecture and perhaps the well-guarded sense of guilt that touches many Serbs in role in the war. And they live in confusion, contradicting them-

'We will move all our things and perhaps later move the family," Mrs Dzuric said. So the family might stay? "No, not a chance. No way. Without our government we cannot stay." Could Nato's peace Imple-

mentation Force (1-For), or will be patrolled by I-For, the the international police force due to patrol the area, guarantee their safety in any way? Even under 1-For protection

we would be afraid, because there would be no [Serb] soldiers on the front line to keep watch," she explained. "Although we believe in I-For. danger still exists."

Yet their main anxiety about staying put in Vogosca centres

apartment; "I'm afraid the owner will come back and claim it

perhaps if it was a Serbian flat I would stay," Mrs Dzuric said. "What do you think would we be safe here?" her husband asked. Well, we replied, neither of you has done anything wrong and, for at least a year, the area

the choices you face. If you have a house in Banja Luka, move there. If you will lose everything, "That's true," he said. "We should be refugees again." He

foreign police, human rights ob-

servers. Perhaps it depends on

paused. "But we are not A cry from the beart that

echoes through the Serb-held

Help build the peace

The Independent is asking readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia. More than £100,000 has been donated so far.

Save the Children is working with children who have been separated from their families. counselling and reuniting them; The Red Cross is running the

largest humanitarian operation in the region, looking after refugee camps and linking people through its famous messaging network: War Child plans to build a mu-

sic therapy centre in Mostar, and to send prosthetics to wounded children in the Tuzia area; Child Advocacy International

aims to bring up to 100 sick chil-dren to Britain for treatment they could not obtain at home. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to the charity of your choice and send them to us with the completed coupon.



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Yeltsin rings in New Year on note of reform

HELEN WOMACK

President Boris Yeltsin, fighting to keep his job after the Communists made big gains in parliamentary elections, urged Russians in a New Year message to stay the course of economic reform and not allow the political clock to be turned back in 1996.

"It is in Russia's national interests to develop democracy, to strengthen law and order and to continue economic reforms," Mr Yeltsin told guests at a New Year reception in the Kremlin. This is the path de-termined by global develop-ment. If we try to abandon it, we will find ourselves in a dead end again. The year 1996 should not become a year of new shocks and reverse movement.

The Russian leader returned last week to his Kremlin office from the sanatorium where he had been convalescing after his heart attack in October. Extracts from the New Year speech

were broadcast to the nation on television.

Last year has not been a good one for Mr Yeltsin. It began with fierce fighting in Chechnya, and yesterday security forces were on alert in case of renewed tension in the Caucasian region on the first an-niversary of the storming of Grozny by Russian tanks.

The conflict, which Mr Yeltsin has called the biggest disappointment of his presi-dency, took a heavy toll on his health as he suffered two heart attacks last year. Despite this, the 64-year-old Kremlin leader appears to be gearing up to run in presidential elections set for June. However, he has said he will wait until February before announcing his final intentions.

The pugnacious Mr Yeltsin is likely to be spurred on to fight for a second term by the success of Communists and nationalists in the parliamentary elections on 17 December. Final results released last week showed that the Communists, who have



Back in the saddle: Mr Yeltsin and Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (centre) drinking champagne at a New Year reception in Moscow

control over the economy and hold a referendum on restoring the Soviet Union, will hold 157 of the 450 seats in the Duma.

The government party, Our Home is Russia, will be the second biggest group in parliament with 55 seats. But right behind with 51 are the extreme nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, a presidential candidate who is demanding cabinet places in any government reshuffle. President Yeltsin.

the assembly, has resisted this, and Viktor Chernomyrdin has remained Prime Minister. Russians know they cannot afford to be apathetic in 1996, which will be a political watershed for

the country. Politics receded into the background yesterday as Muscovites queued at the last minute to buy fir trees and presents to put under them. The Orthodox Church has made a comeback, and Christmas is a rubber rat for his son.

promised to strengthen state who has far more power than now celebrated in Russia on 6 and 7 January. But the secular New Year holiday, with Father Frost and the Snow Maiden who keeps him sober on his giftgiving rounds, is still favourite.

The Russians have also adopted the Chinese system of identifying the passing years with a cycle of animals; 1996 is the Year of the Rat. "Let's just hope we don't get a rat in the Kremlin," said one Muscovite, queuing outside a kiosk to buy

government with elements representing the whole political

spectrum. This, however, would

risk turning into the sort of

messy clientelistic compromise

that characterised the Christian

Democrat-led order during the

Measles whales

Paris (AP) — Blue whales in the Mediterranean are dying of a mysterious disease that some researchers suspect may be a strain of measles.

There are only about 3,000 blue whales in the western Mediterranean. Scientists at the University of Corsica said at least four whales that succumbed to the illness had symptoms of measles, including spots.

The French medical journal Research said the whales were discovered between September and November. Their skin was mottled "like the effect of paint thinner on paint", the journal said. One whale, found near Ajaccio, Corsica had an abnormally large number of red blood cells and had suffered from a high fever, both classic symptoms of the measles.

Researchers have sent samples to a laboratory in Ireland to determine whether the fatal disease was the same one that killed more than 5,000 dolphins in the Mediterranean in 1991. The dead whales all had high levels of lead, mercury and cadmium in their systems, which would have lowered their

Tokyo — The Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, will quit in April and hand over to the Trade Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, to improve the election prospects of Japan's ruling coalition, Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest circulation newspaper, reported. But Kyodo News Service quoted Mr Murayama, 71, head of the minority Socialist party, as denying that there was an agreement.



Pope looks better

Pope looks better
Vatican City — The Pope (pictured yesterday at his traditional Sunday blessing) appeared in better health, telling followers to live out the last hours of 1995 well, avoiding excessive celebration, and joking that he could not see any fellow Poles in the crowd. On Christmas Day nausea caused by influenza forced the 75-year-old Pope to interrupt his appearance.

AP

Nigeria's critical media go up in flames Lagos — The office of The News, a Nigerian magazine critical of the military government, was set on fire, marking the third attack in two weeks on opposition media. Dapo Olorunyomi, the editor, said publication would have to be suspended. Reuter

China plans drive against Internet pom Peking -- China plans measures to stop the entry of obscene or harmful material into the country through the Internet, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Indian minister escapes deadly ambush Gauhati - Bhumidhar Barman, health minister of the north-west Indian state of Assam, survived an assassination attempt in which 20 separatist guerrillas hurled grenades and fired at his car, killing three guards and a local administrator.

Algerian militants hunted down in hideout Paris — Algerian security forces surrounded a Muslim funda-mentalist hideout in Ain Defla, 80 miles south-west of Algiers. and killed seven rebels after they refused to surrender yesterday. Another five guerrillas were shot dead in a clash in the eastern region of Constantine.

Rewer

Battles overshadow Aghan peace talks Islamabad — Fighting among Afghan forces around Kabul dimmed prospects for peace talks offered by the government. Reports said at least two people were killed and 18 wounded when government jets bombed Maidan Shahr, a town south of Kabul held by the Taliban Islamic militia

Reuter

Revolt starts against computer clichés

Sault Ste Marie, Michigan — Computer-speak such as "cyber-space" and "online" topped a New Year list of over-used clichés that deserve to be "unplugged". "Cyber-Anything sets my teeth on edge," wrote one contributor.

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lault? Did you suffer pain or financial loss? Find out tree about claiming compensation. Freefone 0800 444240 (day and night)

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Chirac appeals for unity in Italian parties name price to first statement on strikes

MARY DEJEVSKY

Jacques Chirac last night appealed to the French people to show a new spirit of unity and confidence in France and its future, following the extensive labour unrest that marked the last six weeks of 1995.

Mr Chirac was delivering the President's traditional New Year greetings to the nation, broadcast across the country on television. The presidential message has always been scrutinised for clues about any change of political course, but there was special interest in last night's broadcast. It was expected to contain Mr Chirac's first direct comments on the strikes and protests that paralysed Paris and much of France from late November - a subject on which

he had been strikingly silent.

Aside from sometimes gnomic expression of support for the government's welfare re-

form policies and for the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, person-ally – usually relayed by the gov-ernment spokesman after the weekly Cabinet meetings - Mr Chirac had said nothing. He was not completely absent: he had a busy round of international engagements, from the Fran-cophone summit in Benin and the latest Franco-German summit, to presiding at ceremonies for the Bosnia peace treaty. He also found time to welcome back the two French pilots held hostage in Bosnia.

Some believed that Mr Chirac was deliberately drawing a dis-tinction between his diplomatic role as president and the day-to-day business of governing the country - enshrined in the constitutional cliché, "The president presides and the govemment governs." His apparent non-involvement, however, at a time when the country seemed to be descending into chaos by the day, drew sharp criticism from several senior politicians, including former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Mr Chirac's first presidential

New Year message was studied also for the signals it sent about his image of himself and the presidency. French commentators had made much in preceding days of the traditions and presentation of presidential

New Year greetings.
General de Gaulle chose the
Marseilleise and delivered his animated patriotic appeals from behind his desk in the Elysée Palace's library. François Mitterrand abandoned the Marseillaise, but added the European Union flag to the

French tricolour. Only Mr Giscard d'Estaing tried to temper the essential formality of the occasion by speak-ing from an armchair at the fireside, and once invited his wife to join him in wishing the French a happy New Year. The experiment was never repeated.

join caretaker government ANDREW GUMBEL Italy's fractious political parties liament, there has been much the governmental pie this week as they prepare for a parliamentary dehate to conduct the sum of the government with elements recommentary dehate to conduct the sum of the sum o

mentary debate to end weeks of stalemate. The country effectively entered a kind of limbo, neither entirely with a government nor entirely without one, when the

by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. It now looks increasingly likely that Mr Dini - boosted by the president's decision - will stay on as a non-political caretaker at least until the end of Italy's six-month term as president of the European Union in June. What still needs to be decided, however, is who will

mandate will be.

Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini. offered to resign on Saturday but was told to go back to work Both left and right are deeply divided about the idea, although most party leaders acknowledge the need to introduce a "political" element to the government. So far, Mr Dini's 11month-old administration has been made up of non-elected lawyers, professors, economists and other technocrats.

One major sea-change has been the attitude of Silvio Berlusconi, the media magnate govern with him and what their and shortlived former prime minister, who has suddenly dropped his insistent calls for With all parties imposing

for supporting Mr Dini in par- of a "governissimo" with a twoyear mandate. Newspapers this weekend were rife with speculation about his motives. suggesting that they were influenced more by personal than by national interests. Mr Berlusconi is due to go on trial for tax bribery on 17 January. and is believed to be involved in negotiations for an amnesty in the country's long-running

corruption scandals.

Regardless of Mr Berlusconi, the prospect of elections have receded. Most commentators think they cannot now happen until the autumn - not least because September will mark the two-and-a-half year point at which first-time deputies qualify for state pensions.

Many party leaders are looking to President Scalfaro for a lead on an election date. He was expected to give some indication last night in his annual New Year's Eve address to the nation.

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Middle East peace: Monitors find bias before the Palestinian elections as negotiators on Golan Heights seek a breakthrough

Editor accuses Arafat of coercion

ERIC SILVER

A Palestinian editor held for six days for refusing to make room on his front page for a lauda-tory piece on the PLO leader. Yasser Arafat, yesterday accused Palestinian leaders of intimidating the Palestinian press and making a mockery of the legislative elections on 20

selling Arabic daily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was summoned from his Jerusalem home last Monday for relegating a story praising Mr Arafat's relations with the Christian churches to page_eight. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theodoros, had compared the PLO chairman to the seventh-century Caliph Omar, who conquered Jerusalem for Islam but allowed Christians and Jews to keep their holy places. Mr Arafat ordered that the story be given maximum exposure.

Mr Alami has worked in the He explained yesterday that there had been no room for the story on the 24 December front advertisements. The other 20 per cent was devoted to pictures candidates a total of two and reports of Mr Arafat's 15 minutes 49 seconds. triumphant arrival and speech Israeli withdrawal, and to

Before setting him free on Saturday, Mr Arafat called Mr Alami to his office in Ramallah and delivered a personal reprimand. At home vesterday, the ionmalist said he had been heldin a detention camp in Jericho, but had not been ill-treated.

"My arrest shows that we do not have a free press," said Mr Alami, "We have a press which is afraid of the authorities. The Palestinian papers, including Al Quds, did not dare to publish my story. They did not even report my release."

He saw the episode as an ominous sign for Palestinian human rights, "Democracy is a matter of practice, not slogans," he insisted. "The timing, Maher Alami, executive on the eye of elections, was very editor of Al Quds, the biggest-bad. We have to have a real free press if we are going to promote democratic politics.

Mr Arafai's dictatorial ways also came under attack at the weekend from the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières. which has a team of 15 monitoring the Palestinian elections. They reported "a very strong imbalance in the access to Palestinian public radio and television between different candidates and parties".

Between 15 and 25 December, Mr Arafat's Fatah was the only party to receive significant television coverage. The monitors logged one hour 11 min-Palestinian media for 27 years. utes 35 seconds for Fatah to a mere 17 seconds for the (ex-Communist) Palestine People's Party, the only other group to page. About 80 per cent of the bc covered. The Voice of Palespage was filled with election tine radio was a little more open, granting 20 independent candidates a total of two hours Mr Arafat's candidacy en-

in Bethlehem, two days after the joyed one hour four minutes of attention on public radio and Christmas celebrations there. television. His only challenger for president, Samiha Khalil, had none. At the same time, Mr Arafat as head of the Palestinian Authority received nine hours 20 minutes on television. The written press gave 86.3 per cent of its coverage to Mr Arafat and 13.6 per cent to Mrs Khalil.



Victory sign: An Arafat supporter declares his interest at a rally in Qalqilia, West Bank

Israel and Syria upbeat after talks

Reuters

Jerusalem — Israel and Syria were upbeat yesterday after yet to forge a deal. The Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, told his cabinet of "understandings reached with the Syrian representatives on a number of issues", a cabinet communiqué said.

Israeli and Syrian represen-tatives met for three days near Washington for their first negotiations since the breakdown in June of talks on security arrangements for the Golan Heights. Syria's chief negotiator. Walid al-Mualem, was quoted by Syria's Sana news agency as saying that the two sides discussed a number of issues "with clarity and seriousness". But he added: "No final understanding was reached on any of the subjects which were discussed."

An Israeli official said that because of progress, the sides agreed to stay over the weekend rather than report back to their respective governments. The talks resume this week.

Israel and Syria have failed to make progress in four years of negotiations. Damascus demands that the Israelis withdraw a problem on a specific issue, we from the Golan Heights. Jeru- can still make progress on the salem insists on full peace ties other issues," he said.

the strategic plateau it captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

An Israeli cabinet minister their first week of peace talks said on Saturday that rocket in six months, but said they had attacks on northern Israel. launched from Lebanon on Friday, had raised doubts about Syria's intentions in peace talks. But there was no hint of that view in the weekly cabinet communiqué or at a briefing by an Israeli official.

The communiqué quoted Mr Peres as restating Israel's longstanding policy linking the depth of an Israeli withdrawal to the extent of peace promised by Syrin. A government official said the Prime Minister, who has made a deal with Syria a top priority from the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, also linked the timetable for a withdrawal to the speed with which peace is enacted, saying: "He won't agree to a slow peace and a fast, quick withdrawal."

The Syrians had shown some understanding for Israel's demand for economic arrangements in a peace deal, the official said. Israel has said it wants trade and tourism with Syria. The two sides, he added, had agreed to hold more comprehensive talks than in the past. "If we have

Judge to rule on Israeli's plea to 'die with dignity'

Jerusalem (AP) — A judge in doctors some discretion in how tors not to use support systems fighter pilot until he rules on the man's request to "die with

connect Itai Arad to a respira- the court," Mr Hoshen said. tory system for the next seven days until his final decision is lateral sclerosis, and is seeking published, said Mr Arad's court intervention to prevent lawyer, Yitzhak Hoshen.

Tel Aviv vesterday ordered doc- they treat terminally ill patients. "It is a matter of value and

to preserve the life of a former most judges will take the easy way out and say no (to eu-thanasia). But I'd like to hope that the injunction ruling indi-District Judge Moshe Talgam cates that we are going to see issued the injunction not to some more intervention from

Mr Arad. 47, has amyotrophic treatment that would prolong his Euthanasia is illegal in Israel. life in order to "die with digni-But Israeli courts have allowed ty", Mr Hoshen said.

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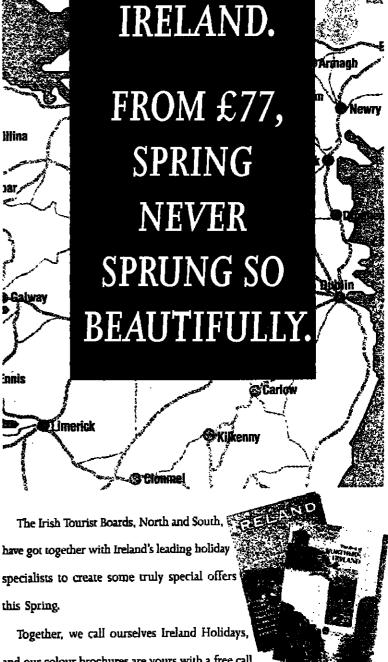
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Taiwan braces for fresh tension with China '

TERESA POOLE

Taiwan's President, Lee Tenghui. spoke yesterday of his hopes for further breakthroughs" in relations with China, despite widespread expectations that the mainland will resume provocative military manoeuvres near the island in the run up to Taiwan's first fully-democratic presidential elections in March.

In Peking, the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, reiterated the mainland's hardline position that any attempt to block Taiwan's reunification with the

mainland would fail, "The Chinese people will eliminate all interference and accomplish the reunification of the motherland," he said in a message proadcast on state television's main evening news.

President Lee also said: "China must be united and ... its people should become amalgamated." But he added that 1996 would be "a year to expand Taiwan's international presence", a comment that will infuriate Peking, which is still smarting after Mr Lee's June visit to the United States.

The outlook for Sino-Taiwan relations over the next few months is bleak, given Peking's determination to undermine public support for Mr Lee

before the unprecedented poll. Reports in Hong Kong last month said the People's Liberation Army was planning to restart war games in February, including precision aerial bombing off the Taiwan coast, Mr Lee, viewed by China as a supporter of de facto indepen-dence for the island state, is the firm favourite in opinion polls to win the presidential race.

In separate remarks to a religious group, Mr Lee urged China to "adopt pragmatic approaches" to the relationship.

Lien Chan, added his weight to Mr Lee's conciliatory comments, and repeated calls for a resumption of bilateral talks be-

tween Taipei and Peking. "It is useless for both sides to merely exchange verbal messages in the air ... It's most important to resume talks as soon as possible," Mr Lien said yesterday. Peking halted talks between the two sides in June because of Mr Lee's US trip.

A measure of the deterioration in relations could be seen at the weekend, when Taiwan's Transport Ministry was reported to be urging direct Taiwan obtains meteorological information about China from US and Japanese consulting companies, the Taipei-based

China Times said. Quiet diplomacy is the last thing on Peking's mind, however, as it gears up for Taiwan's presidential election. The Chinese government's bellicose military exercises and sabrerattling appeared to pay off in December's parliamentary elections in Taiwan. Mr Lee's ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party only narrowly retained its majority, with its share of the vote New Party, in contrast, tripled its number of seats.

The election came after months of intimidation by China. Its attempt to frighten vot-ers from supporting Mr Lee's KMT or the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party culminated at the end of November with heavily publicised military manoeuvres in what Peking termed the "war-zone" off its east coast. Television showed amphibious landings and extensive firepower, to press home Peking's message that it reserves the right to

Taiwan's Prime Minister, exchange of weather data with falling to 46 per cent. The invade what it considers a rene-ien Chan, added his weight to mainland China. At present, emerging pro-reconciliation gade province if Taiwan moves to independence. Last June, the Chinese military conducted missile tests into the sea just

north of the island. Peking's tactics are increas-ingly polarising public opinion in Taiwan. The DPP's share of the vote held steady in the parliamentary elections, but the party's leaders had hoped for a better performance before China embarked on its strategy of confrontation. Other voters shifted their allegiance from the KMT to the New Party, which was founded by breakaway KMT hardliners who want di-

alogue with the mainland over possible future remification. The New Party is exploiting widespread fears that continued tension across the Taiwan Strait, which has caused a stock market collapse, could affect the island's huge trade and investment business with the

mainland. Ordinary mainland Chinese. bombarded with official propaganda, are mostly unaware of the radical reforms to Taiwan's political system since the late 1980s. In the space of less than a decade, the island has moved from an authoritarian military regime towards democracy.



Why stories about the steam are a lot of hot air

A recent night in New York workmen - usually in the mid-City. It is so cold they have turned off the yuletide lights on the Empire State Building that bathe the top two tiers in red and green, and transformed it instead into an upturned icicle of glacier blue. The computerised Chrisumas display across the street from my office building, all moving parts and recorded carois, has stuttered to a petrified halt. The pavements, though, are scalding.

All year, even in the worst summer heatwaves, you can see it in New York. But it is never more obvious than on Arctic nights such as these. Steam.

It seeps in clouds from the gaps around a thousand manhole covers: it escapes in tiny wisos from cracks between the stones in the sidewalk and small fissures in the tarmac in the street; or it rushes noisily in great plumes from stove-pipes driven into the ground by city a million alligators going about

dle of busy road junctions, to cause maximum gridlock.

For visitors from abroad, it is part of the magic that makes New York New York, like the yellow cabs or the skyline. If you have not been here, you have surely seen it in the old gangster movies - the scene under the rattling tracks of the elevaled subway with the swirl of mist around the mobster's car.

But what is it, this steam? Can New York be so full of sin that Hell is right there, beneath the concrete crust? Or what terrible machinery is at work beneath us, giving Gotham its pulse, that no one has ever told us about?

"Alligators making tea" is the answer I offered our fivevear-old son when he enquired as to its origin. He knows the explanation is daft, but seems satisfied, enjoying the fantasy of

their business under the city and ceaselessly boiling kettles. He peers down gratings and the steel doors of cellar shafts looking for snouts, just in case.

about the steam and chances are YOU WILL NOT BET A CONVINCING REply. I have been answered with shrugs - so what if the streets steam? they have always steamed - or with a variety of implausible suggestions.

Among these, the most popular is that it comes from the subway trains. As far as I know, they are electric these days, and I have never seen so much as a hint of steam in any of the stations. Next come the sewers. Human waste may be tepid. Perhaps it has a tendency to ferment on its way to the ocean. But since when did it boil?

Here, then, are the facts: the sandstone and mud of Manhattan island are threaded through not only with train tunnels, telephone wires, bullion Ask resident New Yorkers vaults, car parks and such like. but with a 103-mile-long labyrunth of steel pipung ing highly-pressurised, 400degree-hot steam.

Operated by Con Edison, the power company that keeps city's bulbs burning, the pipes make up the largest steamheating network in the world.

With giant boilers located around Manhattan, the system delivers steam to heat in the winter and power air-conditioning in the summer, to some 2,200 office buildings, including the one I am in now, from below Wall Street all the way up to 97th Street in the north.

York for more than a century. The first to lay pipes was the Steam Heating and Power Company, formed in 1879 by a Wallace Andrews, who subsequently merged his business with a rival, the New York Steam Company. The initials stamped on some of the manhole covers. The first customer in 1882 was the United Bank Building in the financial district. The company prospered as building owners opted to take its service rather than install

boilers of their own. Thus the system is of a certain age and leaks a little. Where the steam is escaping only slowly beneath Manhat-tan's teeming avenues, it tends to create dangerous bulges in the tarmac, which eventually cave in to create deep potholes. These demand visits by the city's wonderfully desig-

It has been servicing New nated Jolt Elimination Teams". In August 1989, a pipe ex-ploded beneath the Gramercy Park neighbourhood, propelling a geyser of scalding mud and rock 18 storeys high. The eruption killed three, injured two dozen and led to the evacuation of hundreds of families. The NYS Co can still be seen event was all the more calamitous as it hurled large amounts of aspestos into the environment. Since then, Con Edison has stripped asbestos, now known to be carcinogenic, from pipes and manhole covers.

So grave a disaster might, you might have thought, dispelled the riddle of the city's steam for good. Perhaps New Yorkers just have short memories. Either that or they prefer mystery to reality. One thing is for certain: the next time I feel the pavement boiling beneath my feet. I will be out of here.

David Usbome I you notes signed with a paw

First feline claws his way back to the top

While Bill and Hillary Clinton have had their ups and downs in the opinion polls in their three years in the White House, the First Cat, Socks, appears to have maintained his populari-

ty while keeping a low profile. Until the holiday season began, Socks, a black cat named for his white paws, hadn't been seen in public for a while. But the appearance of Christmas trees throughout the White House, festooned with glistening, dangling ornaments from across the nation - plus an in-flux of children who came to hear President Clinton read Twas the Night Before Christmas" - have brought the famous feline into the open again. The children all wanted to see Socks, and he obliged by sitting on Mrs

Clinton's lap and purring. So far as could be seen, he didn't knock over any trees or break any ornaments. But White House "insiders", according to the less-than-reliable Weekh World News, say Socks is a menace to many of the nation's treasures. The cat. according to the tabloid, has destroyed antique furniture, paintings, china and historic documents worth thousands of

Suggesting that "this demon with whiskers" be turned into "a nice fur hat, the paper claims Socks's offences include clawing and urmating on a love seal brought from Paris by Thomas Jefferson in 1804; chewing the corners off a Persian rug given to Abraham Lincoln by the King of Siam in 1860; using the Revolutionary War hero Paul Revere's wooden leg as a scratching post; and eating three stars off the first Ameri-

can flag, made by Betsy Ross. Perhaps it is all Republican propaganda, or disinformation by dog-lovers. After all, Socks gets fan letters from around the country, and sends out thankMISSING PERSON No 47: Socks

print. Washington shops still of-fer a variety of Socks items, including T-shirts, greeting cards, soft toys and books, though they are interspersed with Newt Gingrich paper dolls and such. Socks became the first cat in

the White House in 12 years when the Clintons moved from Arkansas in January 1993. He is known to enjoy chasing mice and taunting spiders, and is reported to have dug up a flower bed or two. In one of "his" early books, "Socks Goes to Wash-



Socks: Did he break the

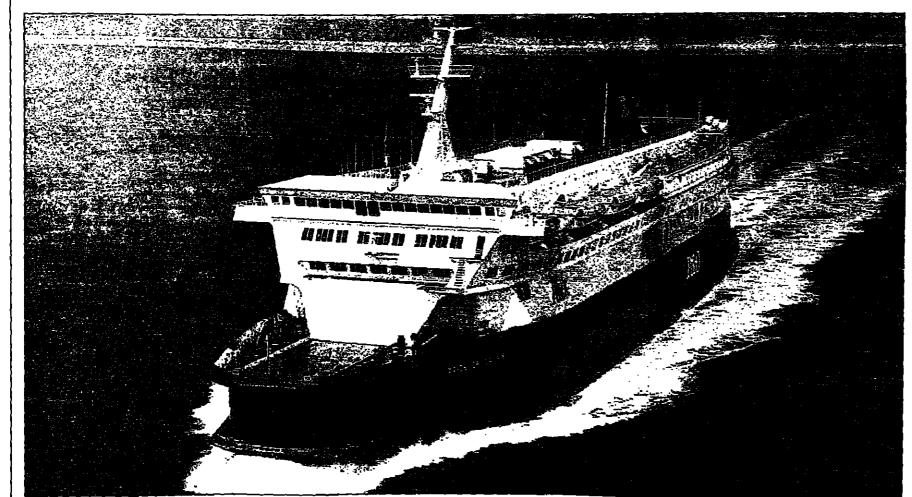
ington: The Diary of America's First Cat", he "confesses" to breaking Nancy Reagan's chi-

na to relieve boredom. With the holiday season winding down and the entertaining almost over. Socks can be expected to retreat to the private world he shares with 15year-old Chelsea Clinton.

Gone, at least until the 1996 presidential election gets into full swing, are the days when he would venture on to the White House lawn tonly to be besieged by photographers) or climb atop a podium bearing the seal of the President of the United States (a man who is allergic to

Maryann Bird

Take a car and five to France for £10 with the & INDEPENDENT and P&O European Ferries



We would like to invite you to start the New Year with a bargain break - a day trip to France with a car plus five pas-

sengers for just £10. We have teamed up with P&O European Ferries to offer Independent readers a range of bar-gain sailings departing from either Dover or Portsmouth which may be taken until April 2, 1996. The Dover destination is Calais

and the Portsmouth sailings will arrive at Cherbourg and Le Havre. Both towns are ideal for shopping, sight-seeing and gourmer eating and would make excellent bases for a short stay. Day trip departures from Sun-

day to Fridays, until 15 February, 1996, cost £10 for a car and up to five passengers. Each extra passenger costs £1 and foot passengers also pay just £1. Day trip departures from Portsmouth on Friday nights and

Dover on Saturdays cost £20 for a car and up to five passengers. The cost of extra passengers and foot passengers remains un-

changed. Sailings from 16 February up till 2nd April, 1996, are £10 per car and £1 per passenger or £20 per car and £1 per passenger for Sat-urday sailings from Dover or Fri-

If you prefer to make an overnight stay in France, the cost of a 60-hour excursion is £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Extra passengers pay £4 each. Friday night departures from Portsmouth and Saturday departures from Dover are subject to a £10 surcharge. These prices do not in

clude accommodation. To qualify for these bargain prices you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the six we are publishing this week. Today we are publishing token one and we will give full details of how to take advantage of this offer later this week.







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1: Richard Burdett and Liam O'Connor In the first of a new series profiling the powers behind the scenes, Jonathan Giancey focuses on two men who are shaping today's urban landscape

A tale of two cities: ancient and modern

rchitects and their build-Aings are only ever the tip of the construction process. No building emerges, perfect in every detail, like Venus from the sea or Athena from the head of Zeus. Beneath the surface, men and women are at work steering commissions for new buildings and new city developments into right and

Because the building process has become so complex in our pluralistic and legislation-laden society, experts and advisers of one sort or another are increasingly needed and relied on to recommend what should and could be done.

Only 60 years ago, an inspired businessman like Frank Pick, legendary chief executive of the internationally admired London Passenger Transport, was, almost singlehandedly, able to commission new buildings, to reconstruct and extend great chunks of the capital, with remarkably little

In 1995, the inspectors from English Heritage will be down on you like a hod of handcrafted bricks if you so much as paint your door a non-standard colour. There may be aesthetic logic in such microscopic regu-lation, but it does make buildpernickety and increasingly arcane business.

So, when John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, wants to examine a new edge-of-town superstore from, say, the Royal Institute of development, or the City of London decides to investigate the possibilities of building radical new designs within the confines of its famous square mile, who do they turn to for advice?

To a new breed of architectural adviser such as Richard Burdett, director of the Architecture Foundation, and to Liam O'Connor, John Gummer's counsel at the DoE. Both Burdett, 40, and O'Con-

nor, 33, are relatively youthful voices in the cumbersome world of planning and building. Both as architects; both are full of energy and are as diplomatic as they are determined to see Britain abound in architectural

On the façade of it, Burdett and O'Connor represent opposite views on how contemporary architecture and modern cities should develop.

Burdett's Architecture Foundation (established in 1992) is, at core, the voice of the new avant-garde establishment. Its board of trustees includes Sir Richard Rogers (chairman). Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, and Andreas Whittam-Smith, for-mer editor of the *Independent*, who established this newspaper's commitment to the arts and architecture.

The foundation, currently considering where to move next, has its home in the Economist Building in London's St James's. This is an appropriate home as the building (in fact, it is a complex of buildings raised on a miniature plaza), designed by Peter and Alison Smithson, was the first of its era (the early Sixties) to prove that unashamedly Modern architecture could be beautifully resolved, handsomely finished and located in the very heart of one of the most elegant and historic areas of central London.

Burdett's proposition is exactly that. Intelligent modern architecture is no King Kong ing afresh for our own era a set on ripping up old city centres. On the contrary, it can be a handmaiden to history, bringing fresh blood and vigour into declining towns and cities.

The foundation is different British Architects, which is a professional lobby group representing the interests of qualified and practising architects. Interestingly, the very existence of Burdett's foundation has encouraged the RIBA to develop its burgeoning Architecture Centre, a place where the public at large is being encouraged to discover architecture, to meet its practitioners and to have a say in its future.

The Architecture Foundation pushed itself into the pub-lic eye wib a series of exhibibest young European architects and ways in which the city, and London in particular,

might best be developed.

exhibition held in the Royal Exchange in the City of London, was a very convincing demonstration of how the latest architecture is improving rather than undermining both the character and the prof-

itability of the capital. Burdett had previously run the 9H Gallery in Marylebone. where the work of talented, if obscure, young architects from around the world was the staple diet. While this enterprise was fascinating, it could only ever appeal to a very select audience. In the face of criticism from his 9H colleagues, Burdett chose to become a

player on a much bigger stage. This has paid off. The Architecture Foundation co-ordinated the inspired "Future of Croydon" exhibition in 1993, showing thousands of local people how their much-mocked Modern town centre could become a thing of practical beauty. Since then, Burdett has been

one of the judges for the design of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art. He was naturally very pleased when Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, two of the European architects assiduously promoted by the 9H Gallery, won the day. Currently, Burdett is mas-

terminding a string of public discussions to be held at Central Methodist Hall, Westminster next summer on the future of London. A high-profile series, the events will be televised and lead, hopefully, to some concrete proposals for the revitalisation of Europe's one and only, hopelessly deregulated capital city.

If Burdett has the ear of the new avant-garde establishment, Liam O'Connor is the practical conscience of the traditionalist lobby. O'Connor rose from the ranks as a lecturer at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture. He has been a mainstay of the Prince's architectural summer schools in Italy and is a fervent and energetic proponent of the compact, highdensity city modelled on clas-

rooted in Renaissance Italy His romantic approach to history is matched by an ability to make history work today. I

class of his students at the Prince of Wales's Institute develop a theoretical proposal for a new Tesco superstore in south London into a small masterpiece of traditional urban planning.

O'Connor has gone on to be John Gummer's official architectural adviser. So when we hear Gummer launch into a reasoned and utterly convincing case for the restriction of edgeof-town and out-of-town retail developments (land-gobbling superstores in particular), we are hearing the thoughtful voice of Liam O'Connor. It is not that John Gummer has not thought these things through (he has), but that O'Connor is able to frame the issues accurately and to provide the ammunition necessary with which to fight the battle for the future of beautiful British cities and well-tended countryside.

Currently, O'Connor is devising a scheme for the redevelopment of the site of Gummer's DoE. The DoE is famous for being one of the ugliest modern buildings in Britain. What O'Connor proposes is that once the concrete towers are razed, the site should be returned to a traditional street pattern, but employing architecture in a variety of complementary styles.

Where Burdett and O'Connor disagree, although both are too diplomatic to do that in public (partly because each knows the other has a point), is over the question of how buildings should look. In many other respects they agree on how our cities might be developed in a more compact, more environmentally sound and more

glamorous way. Between them, they have the ears of the old guard and the avant-garde. Perhaps if they were united or merged by some miraculous process into one person, the silly divisions that continue to exist between the modern and traditionalist lobbies would be bridged and the City Resplendent would become lling and understand able goal for all of us.

In tomorrow's 'The Fixers', Iain Gale profiles Jay Jopling. City Changes, a glamorous have watched, for example, a crown prince of the art dealers





Top: Liam O'Connor, the practical conscience of the traditionalist lobby Bottom: Richard Burdett, believes intelligent modern architecture can reinvigorate cities Photograph: John Lawrence

Photograph: Edward Webb

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS

WEST END

● - also outside London

● ACE VEHERA- WHEN NATURE CALLS (PC) The
pet detective returns. Claphan Picture House
215, 4-0, 7-30, 9.00; Trocadero Mol 12-10,
1.10, 2-30, 3.30, 5.00, 6.00, 7.25, 8.25, 9.40; 1.10, 2.91, 3.91, 3.010, 6.00, 1.2.5, 6.2.5, 9.40; Odeon High Street Rensimpton 12.2.5, 2.45, 5.05, 7.25, 9.45; Swiss Cottage Odeon Phone for tunes; Hierary West End 2.45, 2.15, 4.10, 4.40, 6.30, 7.00, 8.45, 9.15 ■ THE RESIDENT (1.5) A lobbyest is

unconvenied by the president's attempts to woo her. Empire Leiscoter Square 1.00, 3.25, 6.00, 8.35, 11.20; Tracadoro MGM 12.50, 3.15 6.700, 9.00; Odion High Street Retainsport 4.27 7.00, 9.40.

7.00. 9.40

AMSELS MID MESELS (18) Adaptation of AS

Byalt's novel. Curzon Maylor 1.00, 3.30, 6.00.
8.30; Swiss Counge Odean phone for times

Apollo 13 (PG) There story of the 1970
Apollo 13 (PG) There story of the 1970
Apollo 13 mustion, Empire Letterser Square
12mon, 2.45, 5.30, 8.15

12mon, 1-45, 5-30, 8.15

BME (U) A pig attempts to avoid landing up as a Sanday rosst. Barbican Chema 2.00, 4.00; Chapham Picture House 1.50, 4.15, 6.40, 8.45; Empire Leinester Square 12mon, 2.10, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45; Tracadem MGM 12-30, 2-45, 5.00, 7.10, 9.32; Swits Course Odean phone for times; Plant 12-15, 2-25, 4-35, 6.45, 9.00; UCT Bhite-43 1200noon, 220, 430, 650, 910 LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG) Jean Cherega's classic version of the fairy-tale. Barbican Cinema 6.15; Rizzy Cinema 8.30

● BITHE BLEEK MENNENTER (15) A mothey collect non of actors reheatse their production of Ham-let. Barbacan Cimenta 8,40; Totalham Count Street Ken 2.10, 4.35, 7.00, 9.25 ● BRANDERN (15) Mel Gibson directs and stars.

Odern Memorine 7.40 ● HE BRICES OF MUSICIN COUNTY (12) Lowe-set romance. Remor Ness End 8.20 BR (18) An artist gers closer to the usin she loves by manying his gay lover. Pan-ton Street MGM 2.15, 5.40, 9.00

OBPLESS (12) Teen movie satire. Hirmer Hest End 2.20, 4.20, 6.20
• CRUSOR DOE (15) Submarine thriller. Odeon Righ Street Ressungton 9,40; Osteon Mezzanin 5,55, 8,35

EISA(15) A young woman is determined to find her father and gain revenge, MGM Swiss Center 1.55, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15 Himbit (15) Biopic of an 18th century ele-trato super. MGM Swiss Centre 200, 420, 6.45, 9.20, Jonephum Court Road MGM 150,

4.25, 700, 9.35 FOR SECTION FOR WORKE (12) Column Meccanine 0.10, 3.25

@Fibit Points (18) Four mini films directed by
Generia Benestino, Alexandre Reckwell, Alliton Anders and Robert Rodriguez, Switt Cotage Oleon, phone for times; Wirmer West End
20, 420 6.00, 8.55

• FRENCH RESS (12) Meg Ryan stars, Trocadero MGM 12.40, 3.40, 6.20; Warner West End 4.20,

PROAL OF UNE CREET (12)] 如 100 MGM 4.35, 6.30, 8.35 ● GRISSENE (12) James Bond reincarnated by Pience Bromant. Burbican Cinema 6.00, 8.40; Odine Leicester Square 5.50, 8.50; UCI White-5-0 1220, 3.16, 6.00, 9.20

EST (15) Chaptert Ferrer House 5.00, 7.15, 9.30; Haptenber MGM 1.25, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40; Street 1.53, 4.10, 6.30, 8.50 Pocahenias (U) L'acen II Posino (15) 2.30an, 9pm Cincless (12) 450pm Living In Oblivion (15) 7pm ● PE Man M TE CUPSQUED (PG) A toy indises CORRESTO Mile Chapterin Present House 100, 300, 530, Odina High End 5.45, 8.20

● LINO 2 FREEDOM (1.5) Ken Loach's latest. Cur-con Phoenix 1.15, 3.40, 6.05, 8.30 ● LINNS IN COLUMN (15) A director experiences MGM 210, 440, 7.15, 9.35 ● THE MACHESS OF ISHS GEORGE (PG) Alan Bennett's comedy. MGM Swiss Centre 2:00, 4:40,

 MORRER WITHE FREST (15) A young lawyer faces an impossible first case. Witner West End 3.25, 6.05, 9.00 POCHEGITAS (U) Disney yarn about a Native American chief's daughter and her love for an English soldier. Barbican Cinema 200, 4.00; Sar 2,00; Warner Wen End 2,30

B. POSTBO (15) A poet helps a postman to woo a beautiful har-maid. Shaftestury Aver woo a beautiful bar-ma MGM = 10, 525, 825 THE SHOTA CLASSE (U) A mon-bell

tand in for Santa. Odeon Wen End 6.20, 8.45 THE SCHOOL LETTER (15) Remains of the classic American povel. Odeon Mecanine 8.25 SPANSIM TRUB (15) Chinese gangster di Cuzzo West End 1,00, 3.30, 6,05, 8,40 ROOTER (18) A CIA agent follows a dishe presidential assessin to Prague. adero MGM 9.15

HE SHEEP PRINCESS (U) Animated adaptation of Sheet Lake voiced by John Clease and Juck Palance, Tracadero MOM 1225, 230
■ THESE BISSES (PG) The Molutan family are ● TREET MISSES (P.J.) and in dire most of a minute when the myster in dire most of a minute when the myster lock McCloud appears. Tocondero MGM 17 3.30; Warner West End 2.30, 4.50
THE THE THAT SHEES (18) A violent Lather is a manufact to reclaim his daughter. Plan

● 10 0E FOR (15) Nicole Kidman stars. Floo MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40; Odeon Messar Leicester Square 5.55, 8.35; Warner West End 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.30 ● THEFT SEELE MAN TERRITORY (18) Serven Sca-

gal returns as the usey crokicum Riest End 7,10, 9,40 ■ UNSTRUME HERGES (PG) A 12 year-old boy struments his eccentric uncles. Total hom Court stays with his eccentric uncless. Road Road MGM 2.05, 4.35, 7.00, 9.35 ● DE SSEE SESPECTS (18) Five known felons plan another crime whilst in custody. Panton Street MCIM 205, 430, 7.00, 9.25; Warner West End 1.35, 4.05, 6.25, 9.20

J. BAG 1.53, ALD, D.-3, Y.-37

• A WRIK IS THE CLIBERS (PG) Kearm Reserve Start, Odeon Mechanics, Leacuter Square 5.55

HER HERT IS FALING (18) A Christian academic woman falls for a flamboyant circus performer. Pict MGM 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40 ionnes, 742 accet sière notel
Barbican Cinema 638 8391; Clapham Picture
House 498 3321; Curzon Mayfart 369 1720;
Curzon Phoenis 369 7721; Curzon West End

Ustron Process 300 (1.61; Ustron west 216 300 1722; Empire Leierster Square 0900-888990; Paston Street MGM 930 0631; Pic-eadily MGM 437 3561; Shaftesbury Avenue MGM 836 6279; MGM Swigs Centre 437 2006; Bettesbury Court Road MGM 636 6480 Teachen MGM 324 0825; Orlean 2006: Totalismit Com Roll solve Color 6148: Trocadero MGM 434 0032: Odeon Mezza-nine 01426-915683: Odeon West End 939 5272: Plaza 0990-838990; Warner West End

4374343 REPERTORY CINEMAS CHEMINIM opposite Hampstead Tube NW3 (0171-435 (525) (U171-435 1525) Cinema Paradiso (PG) 1.50pm Casablenca (U) 4.50pm, 9pm + The Big Steep (15)

6.50pm MFI South Bank SEI (0171-928 3212 MFI South Bank SEI (0171-928 3212 BFT South Healt SELT (B171-928 SCL2
Farinelli (15) Ann Pocabornas (U) 4.15pm
Dr. No (PG) 6.14pm Butterfly Knn (15)
6.15pm Die Hard: With A Vengeance (15)
8.30pm Heury, Portrait of a Serial Killer (18)
8.40pm
HIGHER High Road N2 (0181-883 2233)
Procaboratas (U) 12moon II Postino (15)

Blue (15) 9pm 80 (MENA Kingsland High St (0171-254 6677)

Babe (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Shanghai Triad (15) 6.15pm, 8.45pm THEATRE WEST END

Masimees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed. [5]: Thu. [6]: Fri, [7]: Sut 1733) & Leic Sq/fort Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45, [5] 3.00, [7] 4.00, £9.50-£27.50.

Samuel Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) O Covent Garden, Tue-Thar 8.00, Fri 5.30 & 330, Sat 5.00 & 8.30, [1] 4.00, £9-£28.50.

Mere London Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-405 (072) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sa 7,45, [3][7] 3,00, £10.50-£30.

Committee Bio Books
Julia McKenzie in Alan Ayekhoum's comedy.
Gieland Shathesbury Avenue, W1 (0171–94
505) & Fix: Circ. Mon-Sur 7.30, [4][7] 3.00.
unds 6 Jan, 23-50-224.

1970 Southern and George Furth musical. Downer Warehouse Earthum Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) → Leic Sq. Mon-Set 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, ends 2 Mar, £12-£24.

Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-734 9951) & Leic Sq/Ton C, Rd. Mo. Sat 7.45, [7] 3.00, ends 24 Feb, £11.50-£30.

DEAS FORM?

Belinda Lang and Kevin McNally star.

Sevoy Strand (836 8888) ◆ Char X. Mon-P.

8.00, Sar 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, £10-£22.50. BEIO GUILT Richard Harris's thriller.

Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Cyr. Mon-Fri 8.00, Sar 5.00 & 8.15, [5] 3.00, cnds 27 Jan, £8-£70. DON'T DREES FOR DONNER Duchest Catherine Street, WCL (0171-494 5075/cc 379 4444) ← Covent Garden, Mon-Fri 8.01, Sat 5.00 & 8.30 [4] 3.00, 25-218-50.

THE DOCKESS OF MALF The Decrease in Successor tragedy.

Who webser's Incobean tragedy.

Who webser's Incobean tragedy.

Who webser's Incobean tragedy.

Who webser's Incobean tragedy.

Webse

Hills intermised by David de Silva. Cambridge Earthann St (494 5080) & Covi Gdn. Mon-Sat 7:30, [4]7] 3:00, £10-£25. THE COSTS HUMBED MORE Althony St. Marrin's Lame, WC2 (0171-369) 1730/cc 867 1111) & Leic Sq. More-Tha 8.00, Pri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45, ends 13 Jan, 25-28.

FIRST VOICE Part Numer Ray Croncy's latest comedy.
Playbouse: Northumberland Avenue, WC2
(0171-839 4401) & Enfrankment, Mon-Set
8.00, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, 25-420. PHF SLASS MEMILIFATE
Temperate Williams' tragic drama.
Cornerly Panton St (369 1731). 49 Picc Circ.
Moti-Sat 7.30, [7] 5.00, ends 16 Max. 45-£73.

Dominson Thursdam Court Road, WI (017). 416 5050) & Tatt C: Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30, [487] 100 £10-£77-50. HORSON'S CHOICE Harrid Brighouse's Lancashire comedy.

Laric Shafteshury Arcone., W1 (0171-494

S045) & Picc Catt. Mon-Sat 7:30, [7] 3:00.

Bount BE
Then Stoppard's Intest with Niamh Cusack.
Aldroych Aldraych, WC2 (0171-416 60034cc
\$36 2428) & Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7]
3.00, ends 6 Jan, £10-£25. AN HISPECTOR CALLS JB Priestley's thriller Sunick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leir Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, ends 30 Min. £9-£24.50.

Brian Conley as the Twentics entertainer. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30, [4[7] 3.00, £12.50-£30.

Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, 1511712.30, £7-£30. @ Pice Cire. Mons-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £17.50-

THE MASTER BRILDER Peter Hall directs Alam Bates in Ibsen.

Theame Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930
8800)

Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45, [4] 7] 3.00. ends 6 Jan £10-£26.

Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 50i0) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, £8.50-£30. THE MORSETTAP

St. Martin 3 West Screet, WC2 (0171-836 1443)

◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00, [3] 2.45, [7] 5.00, £8-

NOTES MATACAGAE THEATRE: A Little Hight Music Sesso Mathias' production of Sondheim's musical. Tonight 7.15.

errotz And Guildenstern Are Dend Stopperd's omedy. Tonight 7.30. stani II Deborah Wazner's production. Tomieht 7.00.

Kunght 730. Lytrelton: £7.50-£22.50, Ofivier: £11.50-£30. Cottestor: £10-£14.50. Day seats from 10am. South Bank (0171-928 2252) ◆ Waterloo. NORTH SHALESPEARE COMPARE The Barbican: A Ciristnes Carol Ian Judge's production of Dickens' tale. Tonight 7.15.

Calo Byron's tragge habitesi drama. Tomght 7.15.

Barbican Theatre: 16-124, The Pit: 110-116.

Barbican Centre, EC: (0171-638 8891) &

[4][7]230,510-530 THE PRINCE OF THE OPEN Her Majory's Flaymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) & Picc Circ, More-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00,

PRISONER CELLUCALI PRISIDER (ELL BUCK)
Musical parody of the soli TV series.
Queen's Shuftesbury Avenue, VI (0171-494
S940) & Picc Care, Mon-Tum 8.00, Fri & Sat.
8.45, [7] 6.00. Crusade charity peri 5 Jan. 4.00.
einds 13 Jan. 47.50-424, charity peri £10. RETURNS TO THE PORTUDO DI PLANET

REJUNE TO THE PURE PURE PLANE I BOD CONSON'S COST TOCK IN THE PURE PLANE IN OTTHE TEMPORE! Shaffeshary Stanfeshory Avenue, WCZ (0171-379 5399) & Holborry Foot C. R.d. Mon-Sai 379 5399) & Holberty/Intt Ct Rd. Mon-Sai 8.00, Fri & Sat 5.00 & 8.30, cards 13 Jan, 49-

THE BOY ORBISON STORY

Witherhall Whosehall, SWI (0171-369 1735/cc 867 1111) ← Charring X. The-Thu 8.01, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30, [1] 4.01, ends 18 Feb, 26-225. RUPERT STREET LOWELY HEARTS CLUB Jonathan Harvey's Liverpudhan love story. Criterion Pecadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369) 1747) & Picc Circ. The Sat 8.00. Sun 7.00, [7]

410, [1] 310, ends 3 Mar, £5-£20. THE SHAKESPEAKE REMIE Satirical Shakespearean revue. Vinudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charing X, Mon-Fri 810, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, [4] 2.31, £10-£22.50.

STARLISHT EXPRESS Apollo I icaria: Wilton Road, SWI (0171-416 61701 BR/O Victoria, Mon-Sai 7.45, [3][7] 3,00, £1,250-£30. SHREET BOULEMED. Addphi Strand, WC2 (017)-3440055) ◆ Charing, X. Mon-Sat 7-45, [5][7][3](1,£15-£32-50.

TRANSPOTTES

Chilling insight into Edmburgh drug culture.

Ambassadors West St, WC2 (0171-836 h111)

D Leis St, Mron-Fri Ball, Sai 8.30, [4][7]

5.00, (no perf 1 Jan), ends 27 Jan, £5-£16.50.

Introduction as Long John Silver.

Mermani Puddie Dock, EC4 (0171-2), 22(1)

BR-© Hackfrars, Times vary - 2002-30 & 7.00 most days, easts 13 Jan. £11.50-£18.50. FORMY STEELE - WHAT A SHOW! Speciacular with a 23-strong company.

Prace of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839

5972) & Leie Sq.Pice Circ. Mon-Sai 8.00, [4]

3.00, [7] 5.00, ends 6 Jan, £12-50-£25.

Market British The Willows Alan Bermett's version of Grahame's novel. Old 1% Waterloo Rond, SEI (0171-928 6655) BR: 40 Waterloo Mond. Sai 7-30, [4][7] 2-30, ends 6 Jan. 56,75-23-75. THE WILLIAM THE WATER Toward Russell Street, WC2 (1971-836 2238) & Covern Garden/Holborn_Mon-Sat 8.00, [3] 3.00, [7] 4.00, £8.50-£20.

BEYOND THE WEST END

The fourt Stocact Cosack and Adrian Dunhar in Charles Woods' version of Dumos' erotic thriller. Mon-Sat 7:30pm, mats Sat 2:30pm, ends 3 Feb. 26.50-£17.50, como available. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-3594404) ◆ Angel. CONTRACTOR Present incurrence Present Station of Nicholas Le Present in Peter Nichols comedy. Mon-Sai 7.45pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 3.7ch, 27.25-

£15.50, crucs available. Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) BR: Greenwich The Suppleton of the Despuected Islas Kase (O'Mara stars in GB Shaw's prophetic comic tantasy. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Sat, 4, 11 Jan, 2.30pm, ends 27 Jan. £7.£ [2.50, cones swallable.

RECYCLETHECIRE Takes From Home Multi-coltraral selection of tales from the Jewish storytelling troupe Besht Tellers, Mon-Sai Spin, mats Sai 4pm, 3, 10, 17 J.m., 2pm, (no perf | Jan), ends 2J Jan, £7-£13, pay what you can Mon & mat Sat, cones available. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 (000) 49 Kabum. 328 (1000) 49 Ketonan.
TREUBE ROOM, STRUTORO DIST

and the Besselak Robert McKewley as Lack

in Stratford's wholesome amount panto. Mon-Sat 2.15pm, Thu Sat 7.15pm until 11 Jan, then Thus-Sat & Mon 2.15pm (no peris 15, 22 Jan), ends 27 Jan. §4-£12, cones £2-£6. Gerry Raffics Square, EL5 (0181-534 0310)

The large flock Kipling's stories are recreated in a production by Tim Supple, Times vary, ends 27 Jan. £14, cones £7.50. The Cat, \$E1 (0171-928 6363) BR/© Waterloo.

EXHIBITIONS Aylesbury

BECCOSTANAISTARE COUNTY MESSERS
We Three Mags: The Mag in Art and Legend Inci

MATHOMAL CIPACIBLE OF PHOTOGRAPHY, RPS National Cestific by Processor agree The 875 1356 Annual International Print Exhibition Includes award-winning work by Eric Howard and Les Siesmek. Mon-San 9.30em-5.30em. cods 21 Jan. 2.2.90, cones 21.75.

The Octagon, Milsom Street (01.225-462841)

Brighton BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Brighton Revealed Includes work by Turner, Constable, Sickert and Bawden. Mon, Tue, Thin & Sat 10am-5pm, ends 28 Jan, free rch Street (01.273-603005) Bristol

eight artists, Mon-Sat 10sm-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 7 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

MOSDE POFFE Heals issue New paintings described as psycho-figuration'. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm Sar 10am-1pm, ends 7 Jan, free. Dering Street, W1 (0171-499 4100) & Bond St. BENTSH WITSERN

Westphistic Rugs Medieval sculptures from the Palace of Westphinster, Mon-Sut 10am-Spm, Sun 2-30pm-Spm, ands 14 Jan, free, Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1555) ENCHAND CALLERY Art and Power: Burne ender the dictator. 1939-1945 Includes work by Nolde, Berlmann, Kiee and Bartach. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (motil 8pm Tue

& Wed), ends 21 Jan. £5, concs £3.50. Belvedere Rd (0171-960 4342) BR/G BIRN HENC GALLERA à Different World: Émiero Architecte la Britain 1972 1950 Includes work by Breuer, Gropius and Korn, Mon-Fri 11am-Spen, Sat 10am-1pm, ends 20 Jan, free, Portman Square, W1 (0171-

ICA GHILERY sulpture by Hapasia. More Sun Lincon-7.30pm (Fri yani) Syan), ends 18 Feb. £1.50 day of hip. The Mail, SW1 (1)71-930 3647) Channe Cross/Piocadilly Circus.

HATTONIK GALLEST ing annual gournels of the Mariang Irom National Trust Collections, Mov-Sat. (Sam-épm (Wed until Bynd), San 2-ym-épm, ends 10 Mar. 13, (25 Wed 3-90m-5ym) Trafalgur Sonare, WC2 (0171-839 3321) & Charing Cross. HATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY. Richard & Haris Copany Life and art of a Regency

couple. Mon-Set Illam-fpm, Sun 12noon-fpm, ends 18 Feb. 43, cones £2. St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) ROBE ACTORING THE RUS .

Bankil Notices Drawing reprospective. Mon-Su
10em-6pm, ends 28 Jan. £4.50, cones £3.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7436) & Piccadilly Circus.

SEPERIBLE CALLERY
William Surnhall Brooze idols and untitled
paintings. Mon-Sun (Onm-Gren, ends 7 Jan,
free. Kensington Gardens, W2 (0171-723
9072) & South Kensington/Lancaster Gate.

DOTE COLLEGY

THE GALLERY
Dynasties: Painting in Index and Jacobson England
1530-1500 Pearnings, soulpture and tepestries
including work by Holbein, Hilliard and
Rubens, Ends 7 Jan. Ex, conses £3.
Colls Saft Paintings, drawings, prints and
soulptures, Mon-Son 10m-5.50pm, ends 24
Mar, free, Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) VICTORIA & ALBERT MOSEBA

Values a macri measure lank fritum ladi The art of Jain religion explored, Mon Lincon-5-30pm, Bie-Stin 10em-5-30pm, ends 18 Feb. 23-50, comes £2.2 Cronwell Road, 5W7 (0171-938 8500) ⊕ South Kensington. CLASSICAL

Bournemouth

Today 3pm & 7.30pm, £4,95-£16,95. Exeter Road (01202-297297) <u>Cardiff</u> ST DAGNED'S HALL BSSC Martinesal Orcala

Tonight 7.30pm, £6-£19. The Hayes (01222-878444) <u>London</u>

<u>London_</u> HAMBERSHITH APOLLO Hintriance - This Steet Lrists dance show with a score by Bill Whelan. Mon-Sat Span, mass Sats, 2, 4 Ian, 2.30pm, ends 10 Feb. £18.50-£27.50, Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416

909N, FESTWAL HALL English Hellend Ballet. The Waterschaf Ben nern's version of the traditional Christmas bellet. 1-6 Jan. 7.30pm, mars 2, 6 Jan. 2.30pm. ES-E3S, family cones available. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) DOO'S OPERALIDATE

Frederick Ashton double bill for the Christmas season. Tunight 7.30pm, £2-£49.50. Covent Garden, WC2 (017)-304 4000) ↔ Covent Garden. STEMS, RETORS Leadon City Ballet: Cinderalla Prokoller/'s

score re-choreographed by Matthew Hart. :Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 6 Jan, 2.30pm, ends 6 Jan. £5-£30, cones available. Roschery Avenue, EC1 (017)-278 8916:713 6000) �

OPERA

London OUI ERRES LOURETH HALL: PALACE (PERA Hamel and Grafal Humperdinck's setting of the Grimme' (airy-tale, sung m English, Tonisht 6.30pm, 59.50-£19.50. South Bank Centre,

<u>London</u> ines 'Mr Kicks' and the London Swing Dance society kend the hards we jump-jump. 100 Club Oxford St (10171-63/6 10933) Oxf Circ. Tonight 7.30pm, 16, mems 15. Sugai Hight Daris Troy, the New Testament Assembly Choir, Carmen Rodney, The Inner District Mass Choir, Rev and The Watchment in a gospetshom. Incr Cofe Parkway NW1 (0)71-344 0044) & Camden Town. Tought Seorge Melly & John Chillon's Feetwarmers Papalo

seargh mong a goal camous regularities Pathio season begins for the porthy polymath, with support from Rounie Scott's muscular quar-tet. Rounie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171–230 0747) © Totembarn Court Road. Tonight Spin, £12, NUS £7, metras £4.

CLUBS <u>London</u>

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10am-6pm (4 Jan. 10am-8pm). £7, cours £5

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tenders, clowns and floats, Westmaster Bridge to Revicies Square (0171-730 3450) & Westminster, Today 12no m. Spm. free. Maidstone New Year's New Treasure lead Brinse at 1996 with this fun-for-all quar through the castle and grounds. Leeds Castle (01+32-800018) Today

The spy who loved me (and my laptop)*

Industrial espionage is widespread in a cut-throat world. Keeping an eye on your PC just might save your business. By Steve Boggan

icture a scene in which a team of highly trained security men hears that a computer containing secret information has been stolen by an enemy.

Taking to the air in a beli-copter, the team switches on a radio receiver to pick up signals from a transmitter hidden inside the computer. Closing in, they corner their prey, surround him and retrieve the computer. The thief may be handed over to the police or, to spare embarrassment, allowed to leave.

No. this is not a script for the next James Bond movie. This is the world of corporate security as seen by some of Britain's biggest blue-chip companies.

The days when the most serious threat to travelling executives was a drunken evening during which trade secrets were indiscreetly shared are over. Today, business executives are routinely bugged, tapped, recorded, filmed and conned into leaving laptop computers unguarded long enough for spies to download their contents. No one can say how prevalent industrial espionage is, but security companies report anecdotal evidence of a huge rise in concern over the loss of commercial secrets.

We do regular electronic sweeps to find intercepts on fax machines and bugs in boardrooms all over the country," says Peter Hewitt, European marketing director for the Londonbased Communication Control Systems, "But the biggest concern seems to be over the loss of information from travelling businessmen whose laptops are stolen or accessed in hotel rooms while they're having dinner in the restaurant."

Mr Hewitt's firm is negotiating with six of Britain's biggest companies over the sale of tracker devices that can be implanted in laptops. They are likely to cost in the region of £4.500 each – about three times the value of the actual computer -but the commercially sensitive information contained in the



Hackers at work in the film Sneakers: since the end of the Cold War, state intelligence agencies have turned their attention to industrial espionage

There are reports from the United States of executives offering rewards of up to \$80,000 for the return of stolen laptops. More alarmingly, security companies talk of cases in which thieves have demanded ransoms of up to \$500,000 for the return of computers. "Not many business people

are aware of just how vulnerable they are," says Gill Upton, editor-in-chief of Business Traveller magazine. "Many executives don't have a password on their machine, they don't use encryption [scrambling] programs and they often leave laptops unattended in their hotel rooms. They need to be made aware of the fact that many countries routinely have agents in hotels. That innocent-looking maid could be working for the secret service and she'll copy your files as soon as you leave your room.

Ms Upton tells executives of the case of the two French businessmen who travelled to China to sell a top-secret multimillion dollar missile guidance system. During the first day of laptop is often worth far more. negotiations, their Chinese of trading in the former Soviet

hosts appeared desperate to buy the system. At the end of the day, the businessmen were invited to dinner and advised to leave their possessions - including a laptop - with their driver.

The following day, the Chi-nese had completely changed their stance. They appeared totally uninterested in paying for plans of the system and the businessmen felt they couldn't give them away. Until, with hindsight, they realised they already had.

"With the ending of the Cold War, state secret services are turning their attentions to industrial espionage to give their own companies an edge on foreign competitors," says Ms Upton. "We tell travellers to assume their hotel rooms are bugged or their fax messages are being intercepted whenever they re on business. Certainly they should make that assumption whenever they travel in America, France, Russia, China or Korea."

Control Risks, a respected security analysis firm, issues advice to clients on the pitfalls

Union. Clients, they say, should never hire local people unless the prospective employee has been vetted and recommended by their embassy's trade section; they should never leave any sensitive documents or disks unattended; they should assume that older ex-government buildings are bugged.

Things get really sneaky when

the former KGB gets involved, blackmailing executives or simply stealing their secrets. Control Risks cites the example of a married businessman falling for the charms of a beautiful young woman, only to be shown an explicit video

recording of their sexual encounter the following day.
He was subsequently invited to ment plans in Europe. And it co-operate with his new business partners. But it isn't just old enemies who have turned their atten-

tions to industrial espionage. The most commercially dangerous ally with which to do business has proved to be France. In 1993, the Independent revealed the existence of a French intelligence document compiled by the Department of

Economics, Science and Technology which served as a commercial shopping list for agents. a guide to which industrial secrets France wanted most from her allies.

The shopping list included British helicopter technology from Westland, solid-rocket booster technology, satellite research and information about high-definition televisions, where European companies igged far behind America It also ordered French intel-

ligence agents to penetrate Wall Street banks, securities houses and consultants, including Citibank, Chase Manhattan and Goldman Sachs, giving top priadvised agents to pay particular the time." attention to lawyers and consultants who are often privy to clients' secrets but who are notoriously careless with docu-

ments and on the telephone. In the same year, the American and Canadian intelligence services issued discreet warnings to companies to assume that their executives were being bugged whenever they flew first-class with Air France. The airline has denied that any of its employees were involved in the practice, but suspicions persist that they didn't need to be: there were hundreds of intelligence agents only too happy to plant bugs.

One security firm (which refuses to be identified) claims to have developed a system that could make snooping much simpler. "Every computer emits a frequency that can be picked up by our equipment and that allows us to read it by locking on to it manually, a senior executive of the firm

told the Independent. "It's a bit hit and miss at the moment, but it can be done and the technology is improving all

The company claims it is already selling the equipment to intelligence agencies - something that some observers doubt - but the executive says it has been banned from supplying it to the general public. If it has developed such technology, however, it can only be a matter of time before the company spooks get hold of it.

For the time being, intelligence-gathering is far more mundane. Peter Sommer, a research fellow at the London School of Economics Computer Security Research Centre. says: "The more exotic pieces of equipment are certainly there - and the capacity of some companies for buying surveillance junk that doesn't work seems unlimited - but most intelligence is gathered in

far more simple ways. The most common theft of information comes from the unattended computer in the office. Often industrial spies will gain access to a company as a cleaner or repair man and simply make copies on floppy disks at an unattended terminal.

"There are bugs and taps, but the amount of information that can be copied from a computer is enormous, so computers are the prime targets. Company surveillance teams also follow executives into pubs, overhearing conversations. And they gather basic information about senior personnel from newspapers and public records. It all helps

to get an edge on your rival." Even when your company has been drained of all its pricing secrets, when its commercial strategies have been siphoned off and its product development plans laid bare. you may not know it, and may continue to lose contracts to a mystery competitor who thinks you're a tool.

One such company - which remains in terrible ignorance ~ asked a freelance computer consultant to examine its pricing program last year. The consultant was not a security risk. but he was, he discovered later. being followed by an opposition surveillance team.

"I left my laptop in the car while I popped into a pub for lunch," he said. "When I came out the car had been broken it, so I have to assume they just copied the pricing program. I didn't know which was worse: to tell the company directors and lose my business or not tell them and let them lose theirs." And, business being business, he said nothing.

Will TV or PC rule the living room? Andrew North on the future of digital and online technology

Gadgets and gizmos for the new year

W hile 1995 has been a year of innovation, 1996 will be a year of consolidation: that is what my crystal ball tells me. We have come to the end of a frenetic period of development, in every field from telecommunications to television. Now we are going to settle down and find a use for all these discoveries.

This does not mean we will not see new products in the shops: we will, but most of them will be upgrades of existing technology. "All sorts of things are technically possible." says a spokesperson for the electronics giant Philips, "but we've got to show that people need them."

The first important product to hit the shops will be the highdensity CD, or Digital Video Disc. HDCD can carry up to 18

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eading the way in Comp

CDs. This is enough for a twohour film in broadcast quality. which will revolutionise the multimedia market. The first HDCD players, aimed at PC/CD-Rom users, will cost about £500.

After all the hype about PCs and Windows 95, the humble TV set has acquired a dowdy, old-fashioned image. That will change with the first digital broadcasts by the BBC and ITV, and the arrival of Widescreen TV (there are several models in the shops now). which will bring much higher picture and sound quality into our living rooms.

We may also see the first ultra-slim "flat screen" TVs in British shops, which do away with conventional cathode ray gigabytes of data. compared technology. Sony will soon rel-

which is just 7cm deep - that means it can be hung on a wall. Cheap digital photography will not arrive this year. Manu-

releasing new models, but they will still cost about £900. It will be a while before the digital Brownie is a stocking filler. Unfortunately for those who are heartily sick of it, the Internet will continue to make news this year. The main thrust will be to bring the Net closer to the mainstream - it is easy for people who are already connected to forget that they are still

in a tiny minority. Many elec-

tronics companies are looking at providing Net access through their TV sets. Philips already sells an add-on TV/Net pack. which works with its CD-i player. This may be the start of a

TV for the position of key entertainment provider in the home. Dedicated Net access machines, such as Netsurfer, facturers such as Canon will be will also be pitching into the fray. The result will be a mix of both: interactive TV, bringing us closer to Bill Gates's vision of a box of tricks that does everything. But that will not materialise this year.

What will also not happen in 1996 is the completion of the high-capacity fibre-optic network necessary for the infor-mation superhighway to work. It will be a long time before every household is linked up. Only then will calling up movies and music via your phoneline be feasible. Media, software, hardware and telecoms giants will continue to bet large sums on this becoming a reality, in

bonanza. The year will see yet more strategic partnerships along the lines of Microsofi's recent deal with NBC and News Corporation's link-up with MCI.

Meanwhile, what matters is the battle between Microsoft and the big Net software developers, such as Netscape and Sun Microsystems. The race is on to produce an easy-to-use application that will make accessing and ordering Net services as simple and intuitive a task as changing channels on

Sun's groundbreaking Java and HotJava could be crucial. This software system works on all computer platforms and combines the capabilities of CD-Rom with the real-time interactivity of the web. Netscape is bundling Java with its latest Web browsers and Sun is giving it away free on the Net. With Microsoft due to ship in a rival, the Blackbird, in the next six months, this year will probably decide which format

The new year will see a punch-up between the no-frills Net access providers, such as NetCom in the US and the UK's Demon Internet, and the online companies, such as CompuServe and America Online. All the main online companies now provide full Net access, and are gaining customers at a prodigious rate. But as their special services become widely available on the Net, their long-term future looks far from certain.

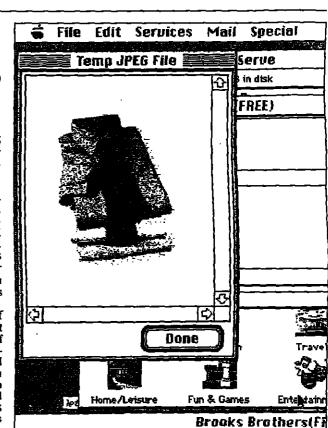
Europe will be one of the key battlegrounds over the next 12 months, with Europe Online and the America Online/Ber-

with 650 megabytes on current ease its "Plasmatron" model, tug-of-war between the PC and the hope of cashing in on the telsman combine challenging CompuServe's current monopoly across the region. Demon joining in too, with plans to become a Europe-wide provider by the end of the year. But lurking in the shadows is BT. which is set to become a massmarket Net provider in the UK within the next six months. Other European telecoms giants may follow suit in their respective areas. Can Demon and the other Net start-ups

Net shopping will take off this year. Some analysts predict more than \$500m worth of goods and services will be purchased via the Web, compared with an estimated \$60m in 1995. This will boost efforts to develop digital cash and encourage more transactions on to the Net. Online banks already exist in the US and such services should appear in the

UK soon. But hackers are likely to become more active in response. Security consultants are warning of an upsurge in attacks over the next few years, as more and more people use

On the hardware side, even more powerful PCs will emerge, but there are unlikely to be any great innovations. Sony will enter the PC market for the first time. With luck we will see smaller and longerlasting batteries, with which it will become feasible to build mobile phones and even Global Positioning Systems into laptop computers. The news that mohile phone charges are falling, and the spread of high-quality digital networks such as GSM. will boost demand for mobile



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Setting a trend: shopping on the Internet for ordinary

goods such as shirts will take off in 1996

Unfortunately, the 1996 consolidation process may spell the well to hold on to its 10per cent over rumours were rife last year to make a fourth-quarter loss for 1995. Battered by the Win- Bill.

end of one of the most impor- market share, but drastic job tant innovators of the past 15 cuts are expected soon. If it goes years - Apple Macintosh. Take- under, it will be further proof that the best technology does and the company was expected not necessarily come out on top -and yet another victory for big

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t's six-thirty and Jacob and I are getting ready to go to an "ice spectacular" when the doorbell

There's a girl - maybe nine or ten - pink nylon anorak too small, neck and wrists exposed, long blonde hair crinkling in the cold. She shivers – and falters into song: "We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New

"Hold on." - as I speak, her voice (never exactly enthusiastic) trails off, eyes turn stony, "are you OR YOUR OWN?"

She stares at me, bored and sullen now, and a sad, spasmy shiver runs through her body, "No," - glancing twitchily behind

"Who's with you?"
"My Dad." She bites her lip.
"Where? Show me." We march down the path. Just around the corner, behind the dustbins, a

man stands lighting a cigarette, hands cupped against the freezing wind. "Are you with her?" Yeah," - smoke escapes through his nose.

You're her Dad?"

"Yeah." He's about 20. New leather jacket, tired face. I look at him, unsure of what to say next. He gives me a weary [— you shrug, looks away. The child bites her nails suddenly and furiously, then he yanks her arm and they walk off.

I stand in the hall a moment, then, realising we're late, go up to Jacob's room to hurry him. But I find him sitting on his bed in tears. "Jacob, what is it?" - these are serious, trembly, held-in tears - "What's the matter?"

"Well," the sobs stop his breath, drown his voice, "you know how my kitten sometimes likes to jump up on the wash hasin? Well, she had this bit of toothpaste on her fur," - and he cries, harder - "I

just tried to trim it off and ... "Where is she?" I grab his shoulders, "Tell me now."

But the kitten is lying on the floor in the middle of a halfconstructed Lego train truck, batting the smallest bricks gently with her paws. There's a little, greyish bald patch on her side. I pick her up, check she isn't cut. Jacob throws himself on the bed again, sobbing. I take him in my started snipping." he cries, "and I couldn't stop."

"You could have hurt her, you

know that, don't you? She isn't a toy, she's your pet. You can break toys but not animals. You gave yourself a bit of a shock, didn't

A look of pure pain crosses his face, "I'm so-o ashamed of myself."

We drive across London to the Albert Hall to see "Beauty and the Beast on Ice" - tickets



courtesy of Auntie Mandy - a serious treat because it's way past Jacob's bedtime. The air's black and heavy with cold - fairy lights in shop windows, taxis pumping clouds of exhaust into the night Jacob sits in silence - subdued excitement.

The Albert Hall's filled with women in mink coats and backswept blonde hair and young tourists with tired, East European eyes. The building's cold, draughty, oppressively smokey, the harsh brown bar brimming

with angry people reaching over one another.

Waiting for the auditorium to open, we sit huddled together on the freezing lino steps. Jacob drinks half his orangeade and then feels sick. "How long will it take for her fur to grow back?" he

asks gravely.
"A while," - I'm disinclined to lie to him about this. "Every time I look at her, I'll

remember what I did. She'll never forgive me." I hug him, stroke his head, sniff his hot, schoolboy hair, "She's already forgiven you, she knows

you didn't mean it and you won't do ít again." In the auditorium, music thumps from a speaker near our heads and we wait. Jacob suddenly climbs on to my knee big and impossible and gangly at almost seven. Very soon he won't want to do this, I think, and pull

him closer: all those limbs, that

lively weight - the boy who one day won't allow himself to kiss

The Russian All-Stars skate on - blue satin costumes and bright, balletic smiles and flashing blades. Magnificent skating, histrionic gesturing, little plot. I feel Jacob's spine stiffen with excitement and then he sighs with pleasure. "The best show I've ever been to in my whole life," he pronounces at the first interval.

Better than Power Rangers," at the second Starving, we hunt the many bars for a sandwich, find an exhausted-looking egg mayonnaise bap, take a bite each

and leave it. The show comes down and we escape while they're still throwing bouquets. People stop and light cigarettes as they emerge and walk down the steps. The air buzzes with cold. Did you ever do anything bad to Sparky?" Jacob asks me as we get into the

car. Sparky was a Collie - the family pet of my childhood.

A sudden memory of another

Christmas: Sparky, dashing through a snow-covered field, a trail of paw-holes behind her. Snow on her pointy nose, her dark widow's peak. Ecstatic barking.

"I can't remember anything in particular," I tell him. "But I'm sure I did, Tve done lots of bad things in my life." In a quick, unbearable flash, the little-girl-onthe-doorstep's face comes back to me. The grey exhaustion in her eyes. I should have rung the police.

I squeeze Jacob's knec. He's thoughtful. Then, "I love you, Mummy," - this is something he says when life suddenly feels good or makes sense.

"I love you, too," I say, but I'm somewhere else. I'm in that longago frozen field with my sisters and our dog, laughter ricocheting - eery and forever - in that perfect snow lightness.

The will to win, win, win!

Entering competitions can be a way of life. David Cohen talks to three die-hard 'compers'

the nooks and crannies of newspapers, on the back of cereal boxes, underneath deodorant cans, on bottletops, in leaflets left in supermarkets. We see them but never notice them, screening out the words "Win!" and "Prize" like so much junkmail. We're talking competitions. brand-product consumer competitions, thousands every month, which most of us dismiss as an activity that makes train-spotting seem exciting. But more than 150,000

Britons disagree. For them, filling out entry forms and conjuring up snappy slogans in order to win that elusive car, holiday, mountain bike, kettle, video, T-shirt or baseball cap has become a pivotal, sometimes obsessive, part of their lives. They are known as "compers" and they can spot the word "competition" from 100 vards.

Compers are usually solitary and secretive about what they do. It is not hard to see why. Last year, £120m worth of prizes were won and in 1996, the figure is expected to rise to £150m. The fewer people that know about this, they reckon, the better their chances of winning. Many compers (170,000 of

them) subscribe to Competitors Companion and Prize Draw Winner, the twin pillars of the comping subculture, which are available by subscription only (£15 a year). The magazines analyse winning slogans, offer tips and provide a comprehensive list of the two types of com-petition available each month: the simple prize draw, where you fill in your name and address on a postcard, send it off and first out of the hat is the winner (skill factor - zero): and ones that require you to answer a few simple questions and complete a slogan (the purists' favourite).

Mark Shapiro, a manager of relationship with my post-box. Chartsearch, publisher of Com-

hey lurk all about us; in petitors Companion and Prize Draw Winner, says: "More than 60 per cent of subscribers are

For the sociable comper, there is the National Association of Competitors' Clubs, which has 50-odd clubs around the country and where compers get together in pubs and hotel rooms to swap slogans, trade entry forms, socialise and brag about all the useful and useless

lescing after emergency surgery, I started doing consumer competitions as occupational therapy. At first it was the odd one here and there, but recently I have become addicted: I enter 80 competitions a month and when I'm not doing them, I'm thinking about them. I keep all my entry forms, stamps and postcards in a box. It's ideal because if I go away for the weekend I take it with me. My friends think I'm nuts but then they're also quite envious when I tell them I've won

eral rule rhymes and puns are good, as long as they're not too clever because the slogan needs

to be understood by the masses. tious, but I always go to a particular post-box to post my entry forms. You could say I have developed a meaningful I have won 10 times in all,

Alice Cunningham, 33 and single, is a housing officer in Devon.

women and about a third are middle-class pensioners. Compers are usually people with time on their hands."

prizes that they've won.

exciting anyway); three comlaver): theatre tickets to some-A year ago, while I was convathing I wouldn't have chosen to see: a set of champagne glasses,

secondary.

a week in Prague. I read books on how to write get 30 posted to you in return. My main cost is stamps winning slogans and study it seriously, like you would a subabout £16 a month. I make my ject at university. I prefer comown postcards. It's a whole petitions that require slogans and a bit of skill. I'm loath to new world that I never knew share my secrets, but as a genexisted. has been like joining a club that

I never used to be supersti-

including a bottle of brandy (I package tour for people who don't like brandy but it was enter competitions. If I can't find one I'm going to organise pact discs (I don't have a CD it myself.

and a kitchen knife. The buzz in East Ham, east London, is winning, the prize is one of 18 brothers and sisis winning, the prize is My mother says it's a "babyish thing" to do. I think she means "unsophisticated". I wouldn't try to defend it on that score, but for me it's deeply

relaxing, a way of cutting off from problems of day-to-day I subscribe to Competitors Companion and Prize Draw Winner and get entry forms by subscribing to a free database called Teldata – you send off 30 competition slips and you stopped since.

For me the competition thing culated though.

makes me feel normal. I'm sive about strange things, like it's a relief to know that what I

do is shared by a hidden community of thousands of indi-I've won about 120 prizes in my life. Each time the sense that company that offers a themed I have pitted my wits against

Lestie Jerman, 74, grew up ters. He became London correspondent for the 'Scotsman'. He is retired and lives in Epping Forest,

When I was eight, I wrote an essay for a local newspaper, the East Ham Echo, and won a globe of the world. It was the first competition I ever entered and, apart from a full during the war when there weren't many competitions around, I haven't

This week I won a £300 video recorder in a post office draw in which you had to answer four easy questions. My entry was simply the first out of the hat. Most of my wins are more cal-

I don't usually enter competitions in national newspapers because they get up to 500,000 entries and the odds are so noor. But in local newspapers, the competition is hardly there

thousands of others and won is ing scooter from Hamleys when a boost to my ego. I won a microwave oven in an Iceland competition for frozen food in which I wrote: "It's the finest food you ever thaw". I gave the microwave away without even unpacking it. Some of my memorable prizes include 120 pints of Yorkshire Bitter; a magnum of champagne, which I'm keep-

Born winner: Leslie Jerman chopped down an apple tree to make room for his greenhouse, before he heard he'd won it. Sure enough, he had

ing to bathe in one day; half a hundredweight of butter spread

commandeered one): £500 cash in Vernon's Spot-the-Ball (it's a bit of a bore filling in all those crosses); and a two-week vacation for two in Russia (which was the last place I wanted to go so I gave it to my daughter). I usually know when I've

I was 12 years old; two tea-sets;

two electric shavers (my son

When it comes to the curety, there's no better annoting

Family lunch or governet . dinner, formulat name) is a

Compers' favourites: 12 phrases that win time after time

It gives a gastrombonic thrill to keep this ageing lassie not an astronomic bill laving discovered it's thirst come, thirst served perfection, why risk randor They're do agreen for the

When it comes to style, i wins by a mile Experts perfect it. connoisseurs select it

i quaff like a toff, without selling the Van Gogn

I've tried the rest, now I'll stick with the best Source: Charletanti, publisher of Combestions Companion

won. I cut down an apple tree in my garden to make space for over six months (I was trying to a £1,000 greenhouse that I was lose weight so I traded it in for convinced I would win. My wife gin and had a party); a cricket said: 'Why have you cut it bat, a tennis racket, a ball-bear- down?' I said: 'I've won a

Sheila Wilson, 66, a single mother and former mother and former antiques dealer, began entering consumer competitions six months ago after she retired and her three children had moved out. Her home in London resembles a junk yard of

greenhouse'. When did you

hear?" she asked. 'I haven't.

Why don't you accept what I

say?' I said. I was very bom-

bastic. A few days later the phone rang and they told me

that I'd won the greenhouse.

I read eight newspapers a

day and I find competitions in

all of them. It's a disease that I

have. I often enter competitions

for prizes that I don't want. It's

all about winning. But I don't

buy products to enter compe-

titions. I'm not that barmy.

When I was seven years old, I won a pair of braces in the school raffle, but that was the only prize I ever won in my life. I never gambled bringing up three kids on my own - there was no money for that - but now that I'm supposed to be retired, I lay my hands on anything that says "Enter".

cut-out newspapers and

At first I entered one or two a week, but now it's mounting

up to about 75 a month. Every morning after breakfast, I spend an hour rooting around the newspapers looking for competitions, filling out the forms and posting them off. It gives structure to my day, something to focus on as a way of adjusting to retirement. It's

a cheap form of therapy. So far I have won two crumby rings (they looked like diamonds in the advertisement, but turned out to be Barbie-doll jewellery), a large bottle of rum and a stainless steel hip-flask.

I only enter competitions with easy questions where the answers are given in the blurb. Like for the rum, it was: "What is the capital of Barbados? What are the ingredients of rum?" The hook for me is getting something for nothing. I'd love to win a trip round the

world. I'm quite secretive and I have told very few people about my new obsession. It is gambling, after all, and, having been schooled in a French convent, I feel rather guilty. There is a loneliness and a desperateness about it. My daughter doesn't approve. But with the children grown up, you think: where do I go from here? There is so little hope in England. John Major is a useless wimp; Labour won't make any difference. I get my hope from competitions."

Stop snoring and start partying, it's 1996

Why is everyone so unenthusiastic about the forthcoming year?

Maybe a lively slogan would help, suggests Alix Sharkey

Did you notice how flat the celebrations were last night? Nobody really seemed interested, did they? All over the country the annual festivities were blighted by an overwhelming sense of lethargy, as heavy-lidded party poopers refused to put their whole selves in, much less do the hokey cokey and turn around.

Of course, people still had a knees-up, got drunk and did naughty things with other people's spouses. But it was nothing like the old days, when the promise of 365 brand new days and four fresh seasons had the

masses shaking with excitement. The problem with this new year, and the three to follow, is that everybody is saving themselves. The accepted wisdom is "Don't shoot your bolt, hold out for the Big One".

That rasping noise you can hear in the background is the sound of Europe snoring. The whole continent is taking a disco nap, in order to be fresh for the Mother of all New Year's Eve Parties. I'm talking about 31 December 1999, of course.

Meanwhile, poor old 1996 has been sold short. Maybe all it needs is a slogan, something to bring us round as we sleepwalk through the last half of the last decade of the last century of the millennium. You know the sort of thing: "'96 - Even Sexier Than '69". Or "'96 - It's The Same Upside Down". Even the sloppiest slogan can work wonders as long as it has a triumphalist tone. For example,

Glasgow - It's Miles Better". Miles better than what? Miles better than walking all the way to Inverness?

slogan and the not altogether convincing mantle of European City of Culture, Glasgow managed to get its draconian drink-

ing laws relaxed and has been miles better for it ever since. The ability of slogans and other worthless epithets to work miracles on public perception has not been lost on those keen-eyed bureaucrats in the European Union, who natnrally have a vested interest in making us excited about otherwise uninspiring moments in history - the bigger the year, the bigger the budget,

n'est-ce pas? This is why, despite public

quite eccentric and I get obses-

the sea and the colour blue, so

viduals. I want to find a holiday

much to celebrate this year. For viously couldn't be done until instance, 1996 has been declared the European Year of Lifelong Learning, during which special efforts will be made to raise public awareness of the benefits of higher education among adults. John

Major is said to be taking a keen interest in this project. Then there is wonderful Copenhagen, which from today becomes the European City of Culture, the crown being passed on from that other bustling metropolis, Luxembourg. On a national level, Italy takes over the presidency of the European Council from Spain, mum speed is restricted to 65

No matter: with this mane apathy, EU officials say there is meaning that things which pretomorrow will now be done this afternoon, but only if you bribe the appropriate official.

> More exciting Euro-news: from today the EU Units of Measurement Directive comes into force for food sold loose, including fresh fruit and vegctables, meat and fish. Beer and cider, as well as road signs, will continue to employ imperial

Other tremendous changes await us on the home front. Coaches are henceforth hanned from using the fast lane on motorways, and their maxi-

mph – a whole 5mph less than the national limit. Not only that but, following accident research, a review of this new law will take place in two years, which gives us yet another tantalising reason (as if we needed

one) to look forward to 1998. As of today, the one-year visitor's passport becomes invalid. From this historic moment onwards, a full 10-year passport will be needed for foreign travel. Given the ever-lengthening queues for charter flights at Gatwick airport, it may be necessary to increase this to 20

years by June. Also today, Michael Heseltine takes over the Buying Ser-

vices Agency, which procures goods for universities and the NHS, and the Security Facilities Agency, which provides security for the Government, including guarding the Crown Jewels. Presumably, both will shortly be privatised.

This may seem like small potatoes compared with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of apartheid, but 1996 still has the potential for intrigue and excitement. England will host football's European Championships this summer, and already there is a palpable sense that history might repeat itself. Not that we have a chance of winning, of course, but perhaps the trophy might be stolen, as the World Cup was 30 years ago, and subsequently recovered by the reincarnation of Pickles

the dog. With a man called Tarzan looking after the Crown Jewels, anything could happen.

Yes, '96 could be a year to remember, if we weren't so eager to forget it already. All that's needed, I'm convinced, is a slick slogan to capture the imagination. Now let's see, what rhymes with six? Chicks, kicks, licks, frozen Margarita mix ... there seems to be a pattern emerging. I think the best thing would be for myself and a few bright young researchers to apply for an EU grant and book into a Swiss ski chalet for a fonduc-fuelled brainstorming session. We could report back in mid-January. No point in rushing into anything. After all, this annual sloganeering thing is a whole new box of

Lord Collison

Harold Collison, former General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers. was a man dedicated to the improvement of the working and living conditions of rural workers. Although the NUAW's name referred to agricultural workers it included virtually every worker engaged in rural activities - from poultry and forestry workers to gamekeepers and county council roadmen.

Collison's political leanings were more of the Tony Blair than the Michael Foot persuasion, but he was a dedicated Labour supporter of firm trade unions and he had no hesitation in expressing his views. Elected as General Secretary

on the death of Alf Dann in 1953, he took over the leadership of the union at a critical time as the agricultural labour force was commencing a dramatic numerical decline which has continued rapidly ever since. Inevitably union mem-bership similarly fell, but Collison, like his successors, made every conceivable effort to recruit members despite the



falling numbers of potential

recruits. He was born in London in 1909 and first attended Hay Currie LCC School, Poplar. and then the Crypt School, Gloucester, until he was 17 years of age. He started work on a tarm in Gloucester as a poultryman and later became a general farmworker. He joined the union and was immediately an active member; in 1941 became the Secretary of its Gloucester County Committee. He also gave his time to the Labour Party, acting as the

Stroud Branch Secretary. In 1946 he obtained emthe union in Grays Inn Road, London, and began travelling the country, attending hundreds of recruiting meetings. He became one of the best-known figures in rural trade unionism and, by the time of the 1953 election for the position of General Secretary, he topped the poll with a substantial

At the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress the same year Collison was elected on to the TUC's General Council. He was regularly re-elected on to the General Council every year and in September 1964 he was elected to the position of Chairman of the TUC.

A problem of continuous dispute and acrimony between the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and the NUAW had been, almost from time immemorial, the existence of the agricultural tied cottage which enabled an employer to sack a worker and gain almost immediate possession of the cottage, even if the worker had no al-ternative accommodation available. Harold Collison attacked this problem with vigour and although during his period of oflice he was not successful in seeing this scourge removed from the agricultural scene he nevertheless laid the foundation of the 1977 Act of Parliament which eventually eased a lot of the difficulties.

In 1965, at the invitation of the then prime minister, Harold Wilson, Harold Collison was raised to the House of Lords. taking the title of Baron Collison. During this period, in addition to his work as General Secretary of the NUAW (which became by the end of his tenure the NUAAW, the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers), he was a member of the TUC and of the International Labour Organisation (TLO), meeting in Geneva. where he was able to become involved in assisting rural workers throughout the

He resigned as General Secretary in August 1969 to take up the position of Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission. He continued to devote his time and energies to the House of Lords although failing health during the past few years made him less active. The annual dinner of the British Socialist Agricultural Society was always held in the Lords

under his patronage. Jack Boddy

Harold Francis Collison, trade unionist: born London 10 May 1909; General Secretary, National Union of Agricultural Workers 1953-69; member, TUC General Council 1953-69, Chairployment in the head office of man 1964-65; Chairman, Social Insurance and Industrial Welfare Committee, TUC 1957-69: President, International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers 1960-76; CBE 1961; created 1964 Baron Collison; Chairman, Supplementary Bencfits Commission 1969-75; President, Association of Agriculture 1976-84; married 1946 Ivy Hanks; died 29 December 1995.



Kaidanovsky, left, in the title-role of Tarkovsky's Stalker, 1983

Alexander Kaidanovsky

Alexander Kaidanovsky remains unforgettable for his appearance in the title-role of Andrei Tarkovsky's film Stalker (1980).

He became famous for the role even before the film opened, after Tarkovsky showed it privately to colleagues and friends. Stalker portrayed the Soviet Union as a mass concentration camp; Kaidanovsky and his fellow actor Ivan Laptev represented the country's conscience - namely Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who had just been put on a plane by the KGB and forced into exile, and the physicist Andrei Sakharov, who had

been harassed by the KGB. Later, it became clear that the film was dedicated to Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov. It stood little chance, and was banned in 1978 by Leonid Brezhnev's Goskino (the state cinema organisation), acting on a decision from the highest level of the Politburo. The Soviet press

trained at Woolger's gym in 26 December, aged 83. Body-

comparatively unknown.

Stalker reaching the 1980

Cannes Film Festival, where it

was briefly released in Moscow.

A graduate of the Shchukin

theatrical school in Moscow,

Kaidanovsky made his debut at

the Eugene Vakhtangov The-

atre in 1969. Shortly afterwards

he was invited to join MKHAT,

Moscow Arts Theatre, the best

classical theatre in Russia, a rare

privilege for a 25-year-old grad-

uate. He made his film début in

Yours Among Strangers and a

Stranger Among Yours (1974), and over the next few years ap-

peared in some two dozen

films, including the satirical

comedy Diamonds for Dicta-torship of the Proletariat

(1976) and The Life of

Beethoven (1980), but remained

Tarkovsky, meanwhile, was

and then disappeared.

and the Strugatsky brothers, who had written the script. But sensational reception at the 1972 Cannes Festival, while The Mirror (1975) had been this did not stop a copy of slammed by the Soviet press. Tarkovsky habitually used the was shown to great acclaim. It same actors, but, impressed by the looks and the acting technique of Kaidanovsky in Diamonds, invited him to play the

title-role in his new film. Stalker was to be based on Picnic on the Road (1972) by the Polish science fiction writer Stanslaw Lem: Solaris had been taken from another of his books. The script was adapted by the Russian science fiction writers Arkady and Boris Strugalsky. Tarkovsky was an ex-acting director, who paid great attention to detail and controlled every movement of his actors. The making of the film took four years.

After Stalker's release, Tarkovsky left the Soviet Union at the invitation of RAI (Radio Televisiona Italiana) to film made a ferocious attack on Russia's most celebrated film di- Nostalgia. He was never to re-Tarkovsky and Kaidanovsky rector. His second film, So-turn; his passport was removed 2 December 1995.

laris, had been banned after its by the Kremlin and he became an exile. The Strugatsky brothers found it difficult to find a publisher, and Kaidanovsky received no more parts from Russian film studios. But he was invited by the Poles to Warsaw. where he was greeted as a hero and offered a role in a film, The

Interrogation of Pilot Perks. In 1980 Kaidanovsky returned to Moscow and, avoiding publicity, was offered some small parts. Between 1981 and 1991 he acted in two dozen more films, but never repeated his earlier success. He turned to directing films, the most interesting of which was Just Death (1993), about the death of Leo Tolstoy. In November he finished filming in Alexander Khvat's The Train Arrives, which is dedicated to the centenary of Russian cinema.

Jeanne Vronskaya Alexander Leonidovich Kaidanovsky, actor, director: born Moscow 23 June 1946; died Mosco

group in the Engineering Pro-

duction Department and I first

give a seminar. He continued re-

search there after formal re-

tirement until 1973, when he

was invited to move to Sussex

University by Pat Rivett, Since

then, he had worked enthusi-

pervisor of research projects in

both Operational Research and

Statistics groups. His penetrat-

ing questions were a regular

Stefan Vajda, actuary and math-

ematician: born Budapest 20

August 1901; Head of Math-

ematics, Birmingham Universi-

Operational Research 1965-68,

Senior Research Fellow 1968-73:

Visiting Professor, Sussex Uni-

versity 1973-95; married 1929

(one son, one daughter); died Brighton 10 December 1995.

1952-65, Professor of

John Bather

feature of our seminars.

Bob Woolger, bodybuilder, died ger, when Schwarzenegger Trainer to Buster Mathis Jar cember, aged 66. German soand Snr, Mark Breland, Junior cialist playwright. Artistic director of the Berliner Ensemble Jones and Tom Johnson. Helped to shape the career of Joey Fariello, boxing trainer. Heiner Müller, playwright and theatre company since 1992. the actor Arnold Schwarzeneg- died 27 December, aged 58. director, died Berlin 30 De-[An obituary follows.]

Lois Bulley

Born into wealth, which she rejected, a member of the Labour Party, Communist Party and Cheshire County Council, a Quaker, a fighter against racism and for social justice and equality, especially for women, a philanthropist with a shrewd business brain, a national benefactor of applied plant biology and horticultural research Lois Bulley was an

exceptional human being. Her socialist, agnostic father, Arthur Bulley, was a pioneer Fabian and a successful Liverpool cotton broker. He used his wealth to become perhaps the most important patron of British plant collecting this century, creating at Ness in the Wirral a garden which holds today one of the finest plant collections in the British Isles.

Her mother, Agnes, an equally committed socialist, was a devout Anglican whose marriage worked happily in spite of the religious difference. Both Lois and her brother Alfred, however, were deeply affected by these contradictions. Brought up as agnostics so they could choose their own religion when old enough, they spent their early childhood closeted at Ness in a household of older people, and rarely mixed with other children. They were taught by French and German governesses, which gave Lois a German accent which lasted all her life. Overawed by her upbringing and later by boarding school, she was left with permanent difficulty in establishing personal relationships.

The conscience and passionate integrity passed on by her parents troubled Lois Bulley. She felt she had no right to her inherited wealth, but owed a debt to the society which gave it to her. This was her morality and her motivation, which she pursued through

charitable and political work. Charitable action began in the late 1920s with a trust to help the children of poor families achieve a full-scale private education. Political action was nourished by work in the East End of London, where Bulley applied an early training in midwifery and Truby King nutrition. She briefly joined the British Women's Total Abstinence Union; though she rejected its narrow evangelism she

remained a lifelong tectotaller.

Joining the Labour Party in 1930, Bulley won a seat on Neston Urban District Council, where she championed lowpaid railwaymen. In 1934 she became county councillor for Neston, including Ellesmere Port, lost the seat three years later, then won Bebington including New Ferry in 1938. She served as alderman from 1939 until 1946. One of only two socialists and five women on the council, she campaigned on issues of the unemployed, low levels of public assistance, social deprivation and women's and

children's rights. Dressing simply and never one for fine living, Bulley was well-known for her ability to clarify, explain and win understanding. In Tory-dominated Cheshire in the cruel 1930s this made her a public force for the Left. She saw no contradiction in standing as Labour candidate for Chester in the 1935 general election, then oining the Communist Party in 1936 while remaining a Labour Party member. The pro-Franco attitude of the Tory government in Britain towards the Spanish Civil War shocked her. "Only the Communists," she said

"offer an effective opposition." The Second World War and its aftermath changed Lois Bulley. Still serving on the County Council, she drove ambulances through the Merseyside blitz, then stood against Selwyn Lloyd as Labour candidate for the Wirral in the 1945 election. Although she did well, pushing a powerful Liberal challenge into third place, she lost her seat on the council the following year. Known for her work on behalf of mental health, she was drawn into the new National Health Service, appointed to Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and the management committees of two hospitals, chairing the board's mental services committee, then the board itself until 1972-

Charitable work replaced political activity as her principal commitment. She began to look beyond Merseyside, especially towards Africa whence came some of her wealth - she often recalled how Liverpool's prosperity was built on the African slave trade. At the same time she experienced a personal conversion to Christianity. Introduced by Labour Party friends to Quakerism and the Society of Friends, she was accepted into membership in 1954,

She travelled to Nigeria to help a Muslim educational trust. In Nairobi in 1956 she established a trust to give back to Africa, she said, the benefit of profits she had inherited through shares in Motor Mart East Africa. Already in 1948 she had given to Liverpool University the great gardens at Ness, the house, the large estate which went with it and an endowment of £75,000. It was the largest bequest the university had received other than its Cohen Library. Yet Bulley refused any university honours.

This was the final disposal of her wealth. Always open to the public as her father would have vished, the Botanic Gardens at Ness are of international distinction. Ness is also the university's environmental and horticultural research station; it continues the work of Arthur Bulley, commemorating his enormous achievements.



Bulley: debt to society

The gift and the end of financial giving brought about a further change in Bulley's life. For more than a decade she had worked closely with Friends, especially with Nancy Kershaw. Warden of the Heswall Friends Meeting House. In 1970 they formed a partnership. Moving to London for some years, they pursued the cultural life of theatre and music which Bulley had rarely had time to experi-

ence. It was a kind of liberation. They travelled several times to Kenya to her trust in Nairobi. The money was divided between water sewage schemes, later adopted by the government, the management of a mixed-race hospital for children. and a scholarship scheme through the National Council of Churches for Kenva. All three projects flourish today. Bulley insisted the scholarships went exclusively to girls, in this way helping to pioneer women's education in Kenya. She insisted, too, that everything she gave or established be administered by Africans, upsetting white colonial prejudice by mixing with Kenyans on equal terms, going to their homes, eating and travelling with them, rejecting a white superority which refused to mix or trust.

Sustained for more than 20 years by Nancy Kershaw, Lois Bulley watched from a small house in Tarvin near Chester the success of her ventures. She attended university events in Liverpool and occasions at Ness. retaining to the end her agile mind and fund of anecdotes.

Peter Brinson

Agnes Lois Bulley, political activist and philanthropist: born Ness, Cheshire 2 December 1901: died Tarvin. Cheshire 27 December 1995.

• Peter Brinson died 7 April 1995

Stefan Vajda 1903, where he was educated. job in New Zealand. In fact, he

building pioneer in the 1930s. Portsmouth in the 1960s.

Stefan Vajda was one of the leading figures in the field of mathematics known as Operational Research which emerged just after the Second World War. Operational Research grew from wartime attempts to solve problems of minimising costs of production, supply and transportation. It was a period of transition in a long career during which Vajda never lost his enthusiasm for mathematical ideas or failed to encourage others to explore them.

When the war ended, he was pleased to be one of the first new British citizens, just before taking over as Head of the Mathematics group at the Admiralty. He enjoyed contacts at this time with statisticians in Cambridge including David Cox and Henry Daniels, later a colleague at Birmingham University. Another young math-ematician, Martin Beale, agreed to join the Admiralty, but only

Births,

Marriages & Deaths

CAWLEY: Stephen, dearly loved hus-band, father and grandfather; peace-fully at home on 29 December. Funeral at St Alban's Church, Tillord

Road, Hindhead, on Tuesday 9 Jan-uary, 12 noon, No flowers, donations to Mencap.

Autouncements for Gazette BIRTES, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorians) should be seet in writing to the Continuous Memorial of the Memorians of the Continuous of the Memorians of the

the Cazette Editor. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2018, and are

or lased to 0/1/1295 2010, and are charged at £6,50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazetic aurouncements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They

Changing of the Guard

DEATHS

when he had first completed a book on bridge.

An optimisation technique called Linear Programming was then developing in the United States. This had wide applications in industry and both Vajda and Beale became interested. They developed it further in Britain and, later, it became the subject of Vajda's first book, Linear Programming, published in 1956, which was translated into many languages. Since the technique was central to the growth of Operational Research as a separate discipline, the book established his international reputation. He enjoyed writing about the mathematical problems, and in all produced 15 books on subjects ranging from manpower planning to mathematical games.

Stefan Vajda (Steven to his younger friends) was born in Budapest in 1901 and moved with his family to Vienna in

Dr Jack Birks, former managing di-

rector of BP, 76; Mr Alister Camp-

bell, rugby player, 36; Lord Colwyn, dental surgeon and jazz trumpeter,

54; Miss Valentina Cortese, actress.

72; Sir James Crane, former Chief In-spector of Constabulary, 75; Mrs

Christine Crawley, MEP, 46; Mr

Richard Gibson, actor, 41; Professor

Dame June Lloyd, paediatrician, 08; Miss Zenu Marshall, actress, 69;

Dr James Merriman, former chair-

man, National Computing Centre, 81;

Mr James Moorbouse, MEP, 72;

Colonel Patrick Porteous VC. 78:

Lord Kingsland (Sir Christopher Prout, QC), former MEP, 54; Pro-

fessor Ralph Raphael, organic

chemist, 75: Mr Lawrence Rowe.

West Indies cricketer, 47; Mr J.D.

Salinger, author, 77; Lord Swansea,

Births: Lorenzo de Medici, states-

man, 1449; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough,

poet, 1819; Sir James George Fraz-

er, anthropologist, 1854; Edward Morgan Forster, novelist, 1879; John

Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, 1895; Harold Adrian Russell "Kim"

marksman, 71.

Anniversaries

Birthdays

engineering student, but switched to actuarial training. When he qualified, but could not find work, he turned to mathematics for a PhD. Later, he attended lectures by David Hilbert and other leading math-

ematicians in Göttingen, including Emmy Noether who provided a contact in insurance. This led to Vaida's first job as a consultant in Romania and then to what must have seemed a more secure position as an actuary in Vienna, where he was married in 1929. It is difficult to imagine the

anxiety and hazards of escape from Austria in 1939; Vajda's two children were sent first to Sweden and his wife Eva was admitted to the United Kingdom as a domestic servant. Vaida only obtained a visa because his friend Karl Popper, the philosopher, had offered him a

Philby, spy, 1912; Joe Orton (John

Kingsley Orton), playwright, 1933. Deaths: William Wycherley, play-

wright, 1716; James Francis Edward

Stuart, the Old Pretender, 1766: Jo-

1782: Heinrich Rudolph Hertz.

physicist, 1894; Sir Edwin Landseer

Chevalier, entertainer and actor,

1972: Frank Soskice (Lord Stow

Hill), statesman, 1979. Hephzibah

Menuhin, pianist, 1981; Lord David

Cecil, author, 1986; Lafavette Ronald

Hubbard (L. Ron Hubbard), science-

fiction writer and propounder of Sci-

entology, 1986. On this day: the

Gregorian calendar was introduced, 1583; Charles II was crowned King

of Scuts at Scone, 1651; the first is-

sue of the Daily Universal Register (later the Times) appeared, 1785; the Act of Union between Great Britain

and Ireland came into being, 1801; Haiti declared her independence of

France, 1804; the importation of

slaves into the United States was for-

bidden, 1808; Britain proclaimed sovereignty over the Falldand Islands, 1833; London was divided into 10

postal districts, 1858; Queen Victo-

ria was proclaimed Empress of In-dia, 1877; the first postal orders were issued in Great Britain, 1881;

the electric chair was adopted in New

utyens, architect, 1944; Maurice

Christian Bach, composer,

He first entered university as an never went there because war was declared and the family were reunited in England. At the outbreak of war, the family had a short period of internment on the Isle of Man

with many other refugees from Europe. Interment on the Isle of Man was not an unpleasant experience. Vaida spent some of his time there teaching mathematics; one of his pupils was Claus Moser. In effect, a college was formed, and several students passed entrance examinations for London University. After a few months, however, most of them were released. Vajda found work with an insur-

ance company in Epsom. Before the war ended he was involved in mathematical research for the Admiralty which led to Operational Research. His association with the Admiralty had begun early in 1944 after an actuary, Hilary

York for capital punishment, 1889;

in Britain, people of 70 and over be-came eligible for old age pensions, 1909; labour exchanges came into op-

eration, 1910; the British telephone

service passed into the control of the Post Office, 1912; the Soviet Union

was established, 1923, the capital of

Norway, known as Christiania, re-

sumed the name of Oslo, 1925; a na-

tionalist government was set up in

China, 1926; coal mines in Britain

were nationalised, 1947; British rail-

ways were nationalised, 1948; Sudan

became an independent democrat-

ic republic, 1956; the European Eco-

nomic Community came into being,

1958; the Cameroons became inde-pendent, 1960; Western Samoa be-

came independent, 1962; the Foreign

and Commonwealth offices were

amaleamated to form the Diplomatic

Service, 1965; Great Britain, the Irish Republic and Deamark joined the EEC, 1973; UK fishing limits

were extended to 200 miles around

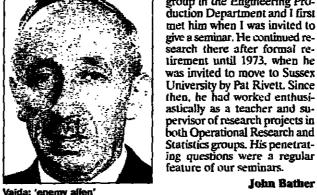
the British coast, 1977, Today is

New Year's Day and the Feast Day

of St Almachius or Teicmachus, St Clarus, St Concordius of Spoleto, St

Eugendus or Oyend, St Euphrosyne.

St Felix of Bourges, St Fulgentius of Ruspe, St Mochua or Cuan, St Odi-lo, St Peter of Atroa and St William



Seal, invited him to join a new Statistics section there. Vajda's reaction was to ask how an "enemy alien" could possibly work for the Ministry of Defence.

He worked for the Admiralty until 1965 when, aged 63, he became the first Professor of Operational Research at Birmtham University. He set up a

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law

Companies Practice Direction No 2 of 1995: Directors' Disqualification; ChD Cos Ct (Sir Richard Scott V-C) 14 Dec

Reports.

The overall effect of this new practice direction would be to give the court greater control over the conduct of disqualification proceedings, so as to enable it to dealt with them as expeditiously as possible.

Drink-driving Webber v DPP; QB Div Ct (Schiemann LJ, Holland J) 4 Dec

Once a police officer had lawfully set in train the procedure. under s 9(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, for requiring a specimen of blood from a person taken into hospital after a road accident, that requirement remained valid after the

CASE SUMMARIES

1 January 1996

person had been discharged. had been arrested under s 6(5)(b) of the Act and the procedure continued at the police station, since the locus at which the specimen was provided was not vital.

Keith Hadrill (Kidd MocLoverty & Co) for the appellant; John McGuinness (CPS) for the respondent.

Natural justice R v Ealing Magistrates' Court, ex p Fauncran; QB Div Ct (Staughton LJ. Rougier J) 22 Nov 1995. The failure to notify a dog's

owner of proceedings in the magistrates' court against a third party, which proceedings resulted in a destruction order being made under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, constituted a breach of natural justice. Even though it was probable that nothing the owner could have said would have cause of action against them.

prevented the order being made, the court would have to think long and hard before upholding a decision where the rules of natural justice had been breached, since down that slippery slope lay the way to dictatorship.

Sandy Canavan (Sharratts, Canterbury) for the applicant; Stephen John (Special Casework Unit) for the respondent

Practice Unicargo v Flotec Maritime S de RL & aur; QB Adus Ct (Clarke J) 16 Nov 1995.

The court had no jurisdiction to give leave to serve the originsting summons out of the jurisdiction under RSC Ord 73 r 7 where the defendants were not parties to any arbitration agreement with the plaintiff and the plaintiff had no other

Accordingly the order, which had provided that the owners of the chartered vessel were to allow the plaintiff to inspect and survey the vessel, had to be discharged. Simon Kverndal (Barlow Lyde &

Gilbert) for the plaintiffs; David Bailey (Norton Rose) for the defendants.

R v Birmingham City Council, ex p Mushtaq: QBD (Dyson J) 11 Dec

The council was entitled to request a solicitor, who was setting up in business as a sole practitioner, for details of her personal assets before deciding whether she was suffering hardship such as would bring her within the provisions of s 49(2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1988, and thus to entitle her to a reduction in her nou-domestic rates.

Christopher Gibbons (Mushtag & Co, Birminghami) for the applicant; Tobias Davey (Birmingham City Council) for the respondent.



prospects for 1996

The global year at a glance

A presidential election, economic downturn, peace in the balance – and a European fracas guaranteed ... The Independent's specialists pinpoint movers, shakers and moments to watch for

A quiet sort of boom

For the world economy 1996 will be a year of insecurity. Growth is slowing everywhere. Is this just a pause in what for most of the world bar Japan had seemed a solid economic recovery, or is renewed recession round the corner?

It ought to be a pause, for it is quite normal in the middle of the growth phase of the eco-nomic cycle for things to falter, then pick up. Exactly this happened in the mid-Eighties. But what gives a twist this time is that different countries are at different stages of the economic cycle. The US recovery has been running along now for more than four years, while in Japan recovery has hardly begun. Yet all these economies show the same symptoms: confidence, whether in the business communities or among consumers,

is in short supply.

For the first half of 1996 at least, expect the "pause" to continue. Expect figures showing that for a few months growth has virtually stopped in the three big economies - the US, Japan and Germany. Expect gloomy profit statements by leaders of large companies, many of which will continue to shed labour. Expect voters everywhere to remain disgruntled, worried, often

But expect, too, this period of reform will be an essential eleunease to be met by cuts in interest rates: in the US, certainly in Germany (and elsewhere on the Continent), almost certainly in the UK. For the flip side of such slower growth is even less pressure on prices. Monetary policy has to be eased to encourage growth; but lower inflation makes it possible to ease policy.

Then comes the test. Will cheaper money revive the world economy? I think it will, but maybe more slowly than most people hope or expect. By the end of 1996 or at least by the early part of 1997, most of the world's main economies should be experiencing new growth, but with even lower inflation than at present. Because of this low inflation, it will not feel like a boom in the Eighties sense. It certainly will not feel like a boom if, by the end of 1996, stock markets have stopped their recent giddy climb and maybe fallen back sharply - as I believe is tikely. And because this recovery will feel more sombre, more low key, do not expect this to benefit politicians facing elections, on either side of the Atlantic.

Do not, however, consider this sober mood odd or umsual. This is the new normality: a low level of inflation; a moderate rate of growth; a high sense of job insecurity. We must learn to love it, for it will not go away.

Hamish McRae

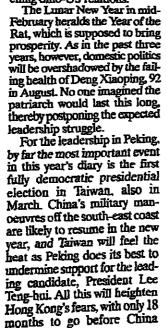
No bold step for Europe

In Brussels, 1996 has been Leagerly awaited for five years. Europe decided when it signed the Maastricht treaty that this would be another of its periodic dates with destiny, when it took another bold step towards federalism. Now, however, it is looking rather less of a milestone.

The reasons why it was thought necessary to hold another Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in 1996 were threefold. There were deals that did not come to fruition in 1991, which it was thought might look thereby postponing the expected more feasible with five years' experience. The onset of monetary union - tentatively set for 1997 - seemed likely to make further reform desirable. And enlargement to central Europe, made possible by the upheavals of 1989, was bound to make change a necessary precondition are likely to resume in the new of new negotiations.

None of this seems quite as heat as Peking does its best to possible, desirable or necessary undermine support for the leadnow, Enlargement looks to be ing candidate, President Lee several years ahead; monetary union has been put off until Hong Kong's fears, with only 18 1999; and the appetite for months to go before China reclaims sovereignty.







dreadful process of ratifying Maastricht. The IGC will not be as ambitious as the 1991 architects had hoped.

But while the ceiling may have come lower, it has not come as low as Britain would like. Three areas of conflict arc likely to dominate. First, defence: most other states want to create a European security body that will evolve into a common European defence organisation. Britain's goal is much more modesi: to create a European pillar for Nato and tighten co-ordination within the EU. London will probably emerge on the winning side of this dehate.

Not so on political reform. Most states want to make more decisions by qualified majority voting, despite Britain having said it would resist this. The European Parliament, 100, will probably have a little more influence.

The third area of dispute will be unemployment. There will be strong pressure from some quarters for a more effective EU stance, but the number of different recipes - trade restric-tions, higher EU spending and tougher social legislation - make the outcome unpredictable.

Since 1991, British officials have confidently predicted that this IGC would be more of a pitstop than a chance to re-engineer the European vehicle. They have been proved partly right. But a commitment to more ment of any package agreed this year or (more likely) next - and there is the rub. The signature on the treaty that comes out of this year's negotiations may be either J Major or T Blair. A treaty signed by Mr Blair could well be much more to the liking of the other Europeans, though Labour's thinking on the EU remains opaque. That is why the French and German governments will be anxiously scanning the British papers for the next 12 months – especially the obit-

Andrew Marshall

When Deng departs

Strained relations with the West, particularly the US, will dominate China's start to 1996. Peking's foreign policy is taking on an increasingly nationalistic tone, and the military top brass are believed to be behind China's aggressive stance against foreign "interference", whether over human rights or continuing nuclear tests.

February is the first anniversary of Peking's pledge to Washington to stamp out intellectual property piracy, and US trade officials will have to decide whether China's failure to honour the agreement warrants retaliation. The following month, the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva may for the first time pass a motion against China in the wake of the 14-year jail sentence on the leading dissident Wei Jingsheng.

On the trade front, a sweep-ing package of import tariff reductions is due to come into effect on 1 April, but China's negotiations to join the World Trade Organisation are likely to remain bogged down in wors-ening Sino-US relations.

by far the most important event in this year's diary is the first fully democratic presidential election in Taiwan, also in March China's military manocuvres off the south-east coast year, and Taiwan will feel the Teng-hui. All this will heighten

Americans will blame the awful

For those watching the Chi-Saddam. For five years, those nese economy, this year's National People's Congress proclaiming his imminent downfall have been wrong - so they probably in March or April might spare us their predictions will finally agree the much-debated Ninth Five-Year Plan in 1996. But I doubt they will. Robert Fisk (1996-2000). Although central planning went out of fashion

priority remains the fight against inflation. As the economy cools elections to less than double-digit growth, the focus will be on those left behind by economic reform: the underemployed rural work-force and staff at loss-making state enterprises. With the emphasis on social stability ahead of Deng's death, the crackdown on crime will continue - using public execution as the favoured deterrent.

Uncertainty over Deng's departure clouds many people's view of China's immediate future, despite its buoyant economy. At dinner tables the forecast for 1996 is "jinshen, leguan" cautious but optimistic.

more than a decade ago, the

government will confirm that its

Teresa Poole

A president for Palestine

Barring assassination, Yasser Arafat will win the Palestinian elections on 20 January. He will declare himself president of Palestine - but exactly what that means will not be so clear-cut as his victory at the begin in May, will not cede east Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital nor bring about the withdrawal of 120,000 Jewish settlers from Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza,

More important will be the status of Syrian-Israeli peace talks. Now undergoing another bout of Israeli-inspired optimism, they could turn dangerous. President Assad's insistence on a total Israeli withdrawai from Golan - under the terms of UN resolutions he accepted as the basis of the 1991 peace talks - will be portrayed by Israel and its US State Department supporters in 1996 as the "obstacle to peace".

So if there is no speedy progress in the talks, Syria will be blamed, rather than Israel, whose unwillingness to withdraw from all Syrian land will not be regarded as an "obstacle to peace". King Hussain of Jordan and Arafat were the only Arab leaders to embrace Saddam Hussein after Irag's invasion of Kuwait - and thus weak enough after the US-Iraqi war to make peace with Israel, Syria. which did not embrace Saddam, is too strong. A movement will therefore grow to render it weak enough to make peace: this may be done through economic or political isolation, or by Israeli military action against Syria in Lebanon, which Syria

controls with 20,000 troops. Lebanon will continue to recover from its 15-year war, from today, Beirutis have been promised 24-hour electricity for the first time in 20 years. President Mubarak of Egypt another man who fears assassination—can expect another year of "Islamist" attacks on his regime. In Algeria, if President Zeroual keeps his promise of parliamentary elections, the "Islamists" may have a chance of proving their popularity again at the polls. But the throat-cuttings

and car bombs will continue. King Fahd's weak heart will remain the focal point of Saudi politics in 1996 - if he dies, there will be a fierce struggle for royal succession in this highly unde-



mocratic ally of ours, which beheads women in public squares. Iran will hope that Europe can offset the effect of Israeli-backed American sanctions - at least until after the US elections, when the Israeli lobby will not matter so much to Bill Climon. Many more Iraqi children will die of malnourishment and lack of medicines in 1996, for which Saddam will

Co this year could bring a Ogeneral election after all.

Defections,

The actuaries say two Conservative MPs are likely to die by July, enough to wipe out John Major's majority, even assuming Sir Richard Body, whose name once evoked the "flapping of white coats" to the Prime Minister's ears, remains loyal. What the actuaries cannot tell

us is how many more Tory MPs harbour secret thoughts of defection. But Emma Nicholson's sensational step across the floor of the House makes clear that nothing very specific has to happen to provoke a defection. She was, after all, an MP throughout the Thatcher years and, despite Labour propaganda about the "lurch to the right", no one seriously pretends Major is more right-wing than his predecessor.

Even if there are no further defections, one thing is certain: by the end of this year people will know who David Trimble is. More than anyone else, the new leader of the Ulster Unionists, who once said that were he a polls. "Final status" talks, to mainland politician he would









probably be in the SDP, will decide when the next election

But the dominant political story of 1996 will be the preparedness of the government-inwaiting, for however miserable the Conservatives' plight looks. one senses that Tony Blair himself is not yet convinced that Labour is ready for office.

The 1965 government papers released today make sobering reading for Labour's shadow ministers. Despite Harold Wilson's political dexterity, his obvious delight at wielding power and the immense goodwill towards the new government, the records of Labour's first year only confirm the impression of a gang of innocents let loose.

Blair and Gordon Brown are not so innocent. But there is clearly a lot of policy work still to be done. The Christmas Eve leak of the inner thoughts of Peter Mandelson, one of Blair's closest advisers, exposed some of the loose ends the leadership is worrying about - and large blame UN sanctions and the parts of Labour's programme could still unravel as a result.

- and the pretext for further Constitutional reform looks particularly vulnerable. Maninterest rate cuts - is that the deison raised the question of outlook for inflation looks distinctly promising. Powerful whether Scotland should still be global disinflationary forces will over-represented at Westminster if it has its own parliament. continue in 1996. The Govern-Other questions crowd in. Why ment's objective of underlying shouldn't there be a referendum inflation below 2.5 per cent by the end of the Parliament looks in Scotland and Wales to set up surprisingly attainable. assemblies? Will there really be regional assemblies in the North

"fairer" voting system for Westminster elections? These are the sorts of questions Labour will have to answer

and in London but not in the

rest of England? What would

Labour actually do about a

in 1996, whether or not there is an election. John Rentoul





Big spenders? Little chance

The British economy will trot along in 1996, forcing its rider, Kenneth Clarke, to cut interest rates to 6 per cent by mid-year and maybe as low as 5.75 per cent by the end of the year. There will be no return of the feel-good factor, but increased consumer spending will keep the economy growing, though at a disappointing rate of little more than 2 per cent. Inflation will continue to surprise by coming in below expectations.

One forecaster takes an altogether rosier view of the prospects for 1996: the Chancellor. Even though Mr Clarke cut interest rates in mid-December by a quarter point, to 6.5 per cent, the Treasury's official forecast of 3 per cent growth in 1996 is not based on rate cuts. Instead, it is based on a rip-roaring - by the standards of the Nineties - 3.5 per cent increase

in real consumer expenditure. Once again, the Tory party is expecting consumers to do their duty and spend, spend, spend the economy into sustaining the recovery. In the Eighties, the Government worried about con-sumers' unbridled capacity to borrow. Now the hope is that we will all dip into savings to spend more. Together with rising real incomes and tax cuts, this lies behind the forecast for con-

sumer spending. Other economists, including those at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, take a more pes-simistic view. They argue that continuing job insecurity and high indebtedness will make consumers cautious and lead them to maintain relatively high savings. The OECD is predicting growth in consumer spend-ing of little more than 2 per cent.

However, the big threat to economic growth in the shortterm comes from another direction. In the past few months, retailers and manufacturers have been building up stocks, even though domestic and foreign demand has been much lower than anticipated. This has had the effect of flattering growth this year. The fear is that companies will now satisfy orders from these bloated inventories, rather than by increasing production and employing more

Concern that the economy is about to undergo such a sharp "inventory correction" led one leading City forecaster, Goldman Sachs, to slash its growth forecast for 1996 to 1.7 per

Another danger to the economy is a collapse in demand from our main trading partners in Europe. Both the German and French economies have stalled, and the outlook for 1996 looks bleak, with growth likely to be as low as 1.5 per cent. The flip side to all this gloom

What will 1996 bring for (from bottom left): Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Deng Xiaoping, the stock market, house sales, Helmat Kohl, Hong Kong, Jacques Chirac, unemployment, John Major, President Assad of Syria, Shimon Peres, Yasser Arafat and Tony Blair?







Keeping the peace alive

Northern Ireland in 1996 will experience either the continuing benefits of peace or the catastrophe of a new outbreak of violence. The peace process still exists and has widespread support, but the signs of strain within it are looking decidedly ominous and no one can be com-

pletely confident that it will last. Compared with other conflicts in areas such as the Middle East and South Africa, the Irish peace process has proved remarkably resilient and effective, but the IRA has lately taken to killing drug dealers, and the fear is that this resort to the use of the gun could be the start of a gradual unravelling. If this does happen, it will be because Sinn Fein and the IRA conclude that the British government has no intention of including them in negotiations for an eventual political settlement. This could happen at the leadership level of the organisations, or lower down in the ranks, activists deciding

the process is a waste of time. Whether or not this happens could become clear early in the year, for everything hinges on the issue of weapons' decommissioning, and the international body examining this question is due to report in the middle of January.

If the log-jam is broken, moves towards all-party talks could happen quite quickly, opening a new phase of negotiation. Like everything else in Northern Ireland, this would not be an easy phase or a short one, for hammering out a settlement acceptable to republi-





cans and loyalists is likely to take

years, not months. A breakdown of the IRA ceasefire opens up an appalling vista of a full-scale reversion to the gun and the bomb, with the IRA turning its back on politics. The result would be futile and nihilistic violence. The republicans would, in effect, be abandoning all thought of political influence and instead staking all on a military victory.

If that happens, there will be a new wave of security responses. There may also be attempts to start inter-party talks without Sinn Fein, but in the poisonous atmosphere that renewed violence would bring the chances of success for these would be remote. Even the most stringent security measures would take some years to wear down the IRA, as well as coping with the almost inevitable resurgence of violent loyalist reaction. In the process many people would die, the increased bitterness further retarding the chances of political progress. It is a scenario that illustrates why so many fervently hope the present peace can be kept alive.

David McKittrick Olympics and

OJ, part II Washington's political pro-fessionals will be consumed in 1996 by the business of the presidential election, but even fewer Americans than usual will be paying much atten-

tion. General Colin Powell's decision not to run denied the drama romance; Newt Gingrich's non-candidacy denied it comedy. Barring a late entry by Clint Eastwood, it looks as if the ageing Bob Dole will be the Republican to take on Bill Clinton on 5 November. With the TV networks already signalling that they mean to devote fewer



hours to campaign coverage than in the past, the betting is that voter turn-out will slip below the 50 per cent mark.

Of greater potential interest will be the outcome of the congressional ethics probes to which Clinton and "1995 Man of the Year" Gingrich will continue to be subjected. The president's Whitewater land deals when he was governor of Arkansas have generated frothy excitement among fringe Republicans convinced they are about to witness a Democratic president fall in speciacular Watergate style. The appearance of a compromising document or two could still hand Dole the presidency but in Clinton's favour is the byzantine complexity of the affair, which renders it all but impossible for ABC news to explain in less than

a minute and 15 seconds. Gingrich, for his part, is held in such low esteem by the public at large that it would come less as a surprise and more as a confirmation of a prejudice should it be found that he fiddled the tax books to promote his political career. When Gingrich assumed his role as Speaker of the House of Representatives in January 1995. he seemed to imagine he was possessed of the authority of Fidel Castro in January 1959 to transform the state in the manner he saw fit, to restore to individuals the power over their lives that "reactionary liberal" government had supposedly usurped. But the checks and balances built into the constitution, laborious check to tyranny that they are, brought his train to a half at the end of 1995. Of greater concern than all of

the above to ordinary spectactors of the American scene will be: the outcome of the trial due in May of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the men accused of planting the Oklahoma City bomb: OJ Part Two, when Simpson defends himself against a civil suit brought by the relatives of the two victims a Los Angeles jury said he did not kill; the Olympic Games in Atlanta, and other games such as baseball, football and basketball, but not soccer - which will almost certainly fail in yet another planned attempt to form a successful professional league.

John Carlin

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Counting the cost of defection

Emma Nicholson's defection, at least in the short term, is bad news for more than just the Government. For John Major, coming after Alan Howarth's departure to Labour, it is a shattering blow. In modern times, the Conservatives have lost the odd MP to the Opposition - some who became independents, and more recently Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, to the SDP in the early Eighties. But two MPs from government in three months, one apiece to the main opposition parties, sets an unenviable record for modern Conservatism.

Inevitably it will help to bring to a head the fears of the remaining One Nation and pro-European Tories in Mr Major's ranks, who have become increasingly disillusioned at the Conservatives' rightward and anti-European drift. Despite their claims to have a majority in the parliamentary party they have proved themselves unable to modify the Government's isolationism in Europe and its harsher rhetoric and policies at home. Now more will have to decide whether to stay and fight, or abandon a Conservative Party which if it loses the next election looks set for a battle that could come to match the internal divisions that Labour faced in the early Eighties.

But if it is bad news for the Conservatives, it is bad news too for the governance of the country. Mr Major's majority is now down to five, and is likely to fall to three after the two pending byelections. It will take only another couple of defections - or, more probably, the likely death of a couple more Conservative MPs - for the Prime Minister, on recent by-election form, to be heading

for a minority government later this year and all the special trading with special interest groups that this is likely to

imply.
The Prime Minister will be increasingly reliant on Ulster Unionist votes or abstensions to carry his business - a prospect which will threaten the one undeniable achievement of Mr Major's premiership, the Ulster peace process. An already weak government is set to become even weaker, with the Prime Minister having to tack ever more frequently, first to his party's left and then to its right, in an attempt to hold his government together.

Ms Nicholson's defection may not be unmitigated good news even for the Opposition. Tony Blair has undeniably changed his party's rhetoric and direction (not least by claiming for Labour the One Nation mantle that Ms Nicholson and Mr Howarth believe that the Conservatives have abandoned). But new Labour still has big questions to answer: over future welfare policy: on how. beyond a windfall tax, it will fund its jobs and training programmes; on how it can square its claims to be a party of low taxation with the funding of a modernised welfare state.

Faced by what looks increasingly like disintegration on the Tory benches, Labour may be tempted to put off the hard answers. If that were to happen, Ms Nicholson's defection will have done the Opposition and the country no favours, reducing the chances that when an election does come, the electorate will have on offer a fully coherent alternative to

Dole vs Clinton: the circus comes to town

Despite three years buffeted by scandal, real or imagined, scarred by personal invective and tarnished by underachievement, Bill Clinton seems the man been partly of their own making. Both most likely to win this year's US presidential campaign. (Yes, the circus is here again: it starts in earnest with the Iowa caucuses on 12 February.)

The sour, septuagenarian Senator Robert Dole is overwhelming favourite to become President Clinton's challenger in the autumn. Both Dole and Clinton are fearsome campaigners, but are also notorious for their ability to put one foot in their mouth while shooting themselves in the other. A Dole-Clinton campaign could resemble a self-demolition derby, with Clinton the favourite to collapse across the line first.

But do not place large bets on this campaign. US political forecasting is more than usually foolish at present. The American electorate, once tolerably predictable, has experienced a kind of Gadarene giddiness in the past four years. On the first day of 1992, President George Bush, the victor of the Gulf, looked unassailable. Eleven months later, he was defeated by the young Arkansas governor. This was portraved as the birth of a new Democratic Party and a return to government activism.

One year and one month ago. President Clinton was humbled by Newt Gingrich's sweeping victory in the congressional mid-term elections. This was bailed as the dawning of a new era of Republican antigovernment activism. Thirteen months later. Gingrich is one of the most hated men in American politics (a 29 per cent approval rating); the Democratic Party craves from either man.

A s regular readers will know, this is the time of year when I bring

you the list of the top 10 boys' names

of 1995 in order of popularity; based

not on the births and christening lists,

but on the newspaper headlines,

where you get a very different kind

of name. To take only two examples,

Sting and Madonna are two of the

most familiar first names from the

past decade, yet they were only found

in newspaper headlines, never in the

To take the boys' names first, I

have to reiterate what I have often

said before - that it is no short cut to

fame to have an ordinary name.

When you think of some of the

names that have been in and out of

the White House this century -

Franklin. Dwight, Spiro, Lyndon -

you realise that these are names we

To take a modern example, none

of us has ever met someone called

Lech, and very few of us can even

pronounce it, yet until recently Lech

was a household name. Alas, since

the recent Polish elections it has

become more of a historical memory.

as John are a barrier to success. One

might say: "Hold on a moment! Is

Conversely, common names such

have never met in real life.

registry office.

wallows, at almost every political level, in leaderless and idea-free disarray.

Clinton's and Gingrich's troubles have

men are products of the electronic age in American politics - self-promoters rather than achievers. But it is also true that both have been savaged by the electorate for attempting to push through the policies that they were elected to enact: Clinton on health care, Gingrich on balancing the US budget. Both have become victims as well as exponents - of the era of the perpetual political campaign: of vituperative chat shows; of concerted specialinterest intimidation; and barrages of negative advertisements full of expertly crafted misrepresentation.

At present, the government of the most powerful nation is "shut down" (because of the budget deficit dispute between Clinton and Gingrich). But this is just an absurd symptom of a wider deadlock. In modern US politics, the weapons for halting government, for preventing anything being agreed, have become more powerful than the official 200-yearold machinery to promote compromise and decision. The US electorate, intermittently following the plot, hurtles from a touching belief in some fresh saviour to a renewed conviction that all politicians

are rascals. Clinton or Dole? Government activism or anti-government activism? Both men are anti-ideological fixers and muddlers, who love the business of politics for its own sake. It is difficult to believe that the US will gain the new hope or direction it

MILES KINGTON

not the Prime Minister of Britain

named John?" but to that I would

say, "No, he is not. He is called

Major. That is all he is called. He is

never called John in headlines

because no one would know who was

In fact. John has been quite a com-

mon name in the press this year, but

only because of dead people called

John, such as the late Sir John Bet-

ieman, whose letters are still appear-

ing, the late John Lennon, whose

records are still appearing, and John

Redwood, who may be alive physi-

cally but seems dead in all other

One of the oddest things about

1995 has been the sudden popularity

of boys' names deriving from the for-

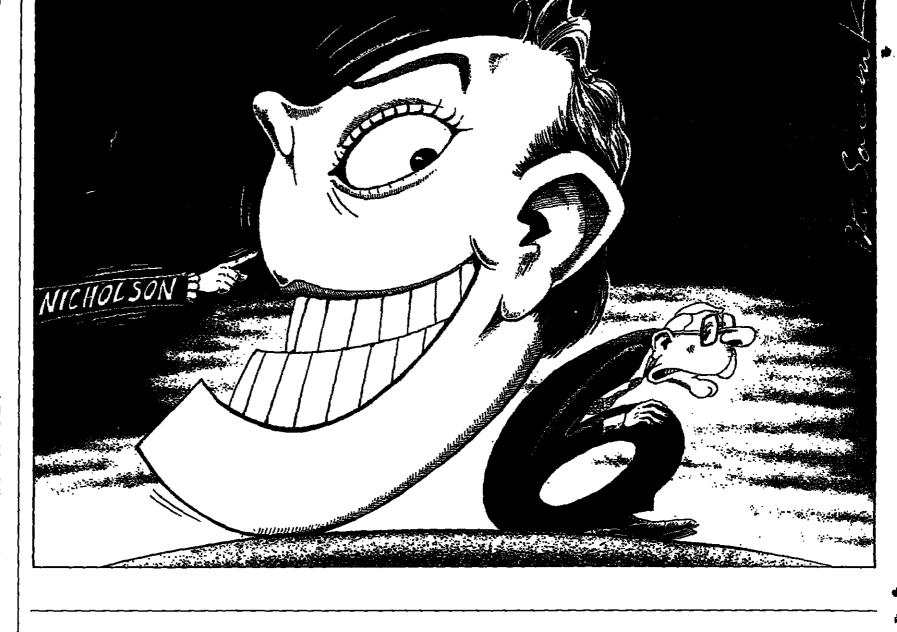
mer Yugoslavia. Among others which

were in or around the top 10 are

meant."

respects.

I name this boy Newt. Or possibly Ratko



* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *

From Mr Jim Moody Sir: The attempts by German prosecutors to censor the Internet via CompuServe (report, 30 December) are misguided and dangerous. Quite apart from the effect of their actions impinging on citizens in countries outside Germany, their partially successful pressure in getting Compu-Serve to drop 200 newsgroups sets a precedent for unrepresentative and irresponsible censorship by the state authorities.

The Internet is not a children's toy and should only ever be used by minors under adult supervision. By forcing this company to boycott certain newsgroups, a state authority has usurped the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents within and without its

territory.
While the state authorities everywhere have a duty to uphold their own countries laws on pedophilia and child pornography, this concern has been utilised to obscure the real issues around freedom of use of the Internet. Despite media huff and puff, the Internet can no more be described as anarchic than the telephone system or the postal service or a bag of apples. t is a communications medium through which individuals talk over, argue, or laugh about what 31 December

interests them. It is not a publisher.

Those who post inappropriate material are dealt with expeditiously by their peers, their fellowusers in each news group. And, by all accounts, the anti-pedophile squads of the British police keep a careful watch on what is being posted in some discussions with a view to tracing criminals here, with some success. Moves to destroy parental

guidance and responsibility should be condemned, especially when they lead to infringement of all adults' rights. Technical help for parents already exists; CompuServe is due to bring in a software filter in the near future to allow parents to make the choices that the German authorities have, for the moment, forced

upon the company. Other such filters are already on the market. And of course there is always the off switch. What is unacceptable, and highly undemocratic, is for adults to be refused the right to decide for themselves by state authorities who presume to determine what is best for them. Yours faithfully JIM MOODY

Director, Media Watch London, N22

Blair must resolve the tartan problem

From Mr M. J. Turner Sir: Your leader "Tartan Terrors of Mr Blair" (27 December) suggests that one way around the "West Lothian" question would be to ignore it as just another of the British constitution's many contradictions. You defend this view by stating that the English do not seem concerned about the democratic anomalies that devolution would cause.

However, I think not only the English but also the Scots would find this aspect of devolution hard to stomach, for surely the most pertinent point encom-passed in the "West Lothian"

Ratko, Slobodan and Radovan, none

of which have measured on the scale

Another interesting development

is the continuing emergence of South

African boys' names. We have seen

Nelson and FC De in the top10

before, but this time there are other

names such as Chester and Joost to

contend with, all drawn from the

game of rugby. Indeed, I believe there is a South African rugby player called

Hennie, a name not borne by any

But enough of this, and straight on

to the 1995 top 10 boys' names, as

computed from the news headlines.

Last year's positions are in brackets.

OJ is, obviously, drawn from the

popular American sportsman who

everyone thought had murdered his

wife until an American court found

male or female in Britain.

2 Ken

3. Nick

4. Nelson

6. Boris

8. Yitzhak

Yasser

Newt

7. **Ge**птv

5. Mister (Darcy)

MPs can make English policy whereas the English cannot make Scottish policy, but that a Scottish Westminster MP can take decisions affecting (say) the National Curriculum in schools in the South of England, but will have no say over what is taught in schools in his or her own constituency.

The important link between an MP and his or her constituents will loosen when an MP can do little about local problems and is accountable for nothing concerning local issues. It is for this reason that ignoring the problem can be no option for Mr Blair. Yours faithfully, MATTHEW J. TURNER

St. Ives, Cambridgeshire question is not that the Scottish 30 December

he was not guilty, after which every-

one still believed he had murdered

Ken is an unusually popular name

this year, owing to the fame of the

late Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa.

but also owing to the presence of half

of the variety act of Ken 'n' Emma

(now alas disbanded), the first name

of the Chancellor of he Exchequer,

the male partner of Barbie, and so

The name Nick owes its high num-

ber 3 position to the fame of Nick

Leeson, Nick Faldo and another

variety team called Anne and Nick.

the scene, at least for 150 years, the

point being that Darcy seemed to

have no first name, so everyone

called him Mister Darcy, which is as

The other names are self-explana-

tory, except Newt, which is American

and therefore probably not a real

name at all (and the same goes for

Tomorrow we bring you the top 10 girls

names of 1995. Will Divine beat

Diana? Will it be Paula or Camilla?

Or will Pamelanderson sweep the

good a first name as any.

Mister (Darcy) is a new name on

his wife.

How not to police the Internet | Symbolism in decommissioning of IRA arms

From Mr John Dohens Sir: George Huxley (letter, 28 December) got it wrong. It matters not a whit that the prelimi-nary decommissioning of some or all IRA weapons was not, in fact. a precondition set out in the Downing Street Declaration. It matters even less that the decommissioning issue was, as Professor Huxley takes pains to emphasisc. dragged in later as a sop to Ulster Unionists.

The issue is not how the decommissioning issue came to dominate the agenda. That perspective reeks of the very sectarianism the so-called peace process labours to overcome. each side digging in along lines of entrenched prejudice while labouring to extract whatever propaganda and tactical advantage is to be had.

Indeed, both sides already seem bogged down in issues thrown up, not so much by the enforced political division of Ire-land in 1921, but by the latent sectarian hatreds virulent in the North and the South since the Reformation.

The real question is why the decommissioning football threatens to blow up in everybody's face. The answer: two Christian sects forever at deadly enmity. Indeed, the row over decommis-

sioning can be seen as a symptom of the underlying sectarian pathology. If the cause did not exist, neither would the symptom. Take the medical analogy a step further and look at the so-called peace process as a symptom in its

The detached perspective recognises the futility of wilfully creating a new symptom in the vain hope that, by tormenting it with one-sided assertions, such as those put about by Professor Huxley, the related - and potentially lethal - symptoms will magically disappear.

They will not. Yours sincerely. JOHN DOHENY Cult Research International London N8 28 December

From Mr Eoin O'Neachtain Sir: Your leading article ("Justice from a barrel of a gun". 29 December) is fundamentally flawed, both in its analysis and in its prescription.

Since August 1994 we have not had a cessation of political violence by Sinn Fein/IRA, Instead, we have had a cessation of military operations. Punishment beatings have continued on an even more intense level, as documented by Families Against

Intimidation and Terror, and now we have a dramatic increase in political murders.

For a settlement in Northern Ireland to be truly inclusive, all sides must show their commitment to democratic politics and the rule of law. Sinn Fein/IRA has yet to do this, as do the loy-

alist paramilitaries. In this context, the British government's insistence that some decommissioning of weapons by paramilitaries take place seems a minimum requirement for allparty talks. This condition is justified on practical grounds and is in accordance with liberal democratic principles. Opinion in the Republic of Ireland overwhelmingly supports this position (76 per cent of those questioned in a recent poll).

Pressure must now be put on Sin Fein to condemn unequivocally the murders of recent days and the continuing punishment beatings and demonstrate their adherence to due process. If they do not do this, the genuineness of their commitment to the search for peace in Northern Ireland will have to be seriously re-exam-

ined. Yours etc. EOIN O'NEACHTAIN London, W12 29 December

Self-gratification at Christmas

From Mr Mark Walmsley Sir: Your leading article "Even a Pocahoutas Christmas is a chance to dream" (23 December) suggests that, for all its hypocrisy, the festival remains a net gain as a social institution. But you had to omit certain negative aspects of the "goodwill" element in order to arrive at this judgement.

The media emphasis upon ide-

alised Christian family units can be hugely saddening for those who, for whatever reason, do not share them; and it places great emotional stress on many who do, as indicated by increases in drug overdoses, hotline calls, domestic quarrels, and alcoholics losing their self-discipline. Also, every aspect of environmentalism that one can think of is adversely affected by an increase in consumerism, congestion, and meat consumption.

And - of most relevance to your contention - the greatest part of the spending and giving of, often, frivolous luxury gifts is concentrated within the family or the same social class. This drain on resources, (with long-term effects - January is the peak month for credit-card delinquency) actually reduces our capacity to act on our decent impulses to assist those in need. Inequalities in the status quo are thus reinforced, particularly that suffered by the "woman who makes Nike shoes on a poverty

The notion of sacrifice is in opposition to the overall modern Christmas ethos. Those who claim that "goodwill" is increased at Christmas should consider the implications of what is mostly a matter of self-gratification and an excuse for irresponsibility. Yours faithfully, MARK WALMSLEY

Basford, Staffordshire 22 December

From Mr David Warden Sir: Mary Kenny alleges that: Christmas is a rotten time to be an atheist: but then atheists embrace such a bloak view of life (in my experience) that perhaps they do not care for the "sentimentality of Christmas anyhow. ("Meanings of Christmas", 28

December). I confess that, as an ex-Christian. I miss out on the enchantment of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; but this is just a trick of candlelight, choristers and the smell of ancient stones. In the cold light of day, Christianity preaches an accursed ethic of self-denial (see John 12.24) of which I, for one, am overjoyed to be free. Yours faithfully,

DAVID WARDEN Bournemouth, Dorset 28 December

English jubilee

From Ms Chrissie Maher Sir: 1996 sees the 25th anniversary of my starting to campaign for clear, understandable English. It is a campaign that is still far from over, although we have n ade many advances.

To celebrate this silver jubilec. I am placing a time capsule in the vaults of our office, recording some of the highlights of the past 25 years. Items going in the capsule need to reflect the years, and most should have relevance to the

I shall be putting in news-

papers from 1 January 1971, the year my campaigning started, as well as from 1 January 1996. We will also include documents to show how far the fight agains gobbledegook has come. And, of course, there will be books and articles using the best clear

Your readers may like to make their own suggestions of what will give a feel of our past 25 years for future generations. Yours sincerely. CHRISSIE MAHER Stockport

Director, Plain English Campaign

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Emma Nicholson's familial precedent

From Mr Robert Cook Sir: It is interesting to compare Emma Nicholson's comments on changes in the party she now leaves with those of her greatgrandfather, William Nicholson, Liberal MP for Petersfield, who left that party to join the Conservatives at the election of

He then observed that the Liberal party was not solid and united as it had been 30 years petore, but was simply a remnant of Whigs and radicals with no bond of union between them (Hampshire Advertiser, 7 November 1885).

It will also be interesting to see whether Ms Nicholson modifies her policy, as the UK Conservative Parliamentary Patron of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, of refusing to endorse its declaration because of its coverage of sexual orientation. This was supported by her fellow Liberal Democrat and Labour patrons. Yours faithfully,

ROBERT COOK London, W11

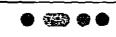
From Mr C. G. Passmore Sir: Why is it that when a politician changes parties it is called defection, but when a politician changes religion it is known as conversion? Yours faithfully.

CHRISTOPHER PASSMORE Weldon, Northamptonshire 31 December

What second post?

From Mr Ian Partridge Sir: Ken Wright seeks to impress with the Royal Mail's statistics and aims (letter, 30 December), As a Lincolnshire resident for

20 years. I have but one question: What is this mythical (or even fictional) beast called a "second delivery"? I know it not! Yours hopefully. IAN S. PARTRIDGE East Barkwith, Lincolnshire



board? Find out tomorrow!



30 December

Is it just Emma – or is it really The End?

Disaster or comedy? The creak that leads to the crash of the page administration, or the country administration, or the country.

The creak regarded by the Prime Minister as itself, since Major's parliamentary will further inflame. Tory administration, or the squeak of a disappointed and lonely backbencher? Emma Nicholson's defection brought down almost biblical wrath from the party hierarchy, they have accused her of inconsistency. caprice, wounded vanity. She accused them of racism and general

Well, she has been inconsistent (but so are most of the Cabinet). And she is composed of personal ambition and vanity, alongside public-spiritedness and idealism (they, too.) Both fleeing woman and fled-from party abominate the other as extraordinary, untrustworthy and bizarre. Sensible observers will no doubt be mildly amused by the raised and raucous voices breaking through the new year atmosphere and wonder only whether it means an early election.

Is it just Emma or is it The End? The Government's majority, on paper, is now five. I include the whipless Sir Richard Body, who has promised to back John Major in any confidence motion—rather decently, one thinks, since he is openly

three - the same as Harold Wilson in 1965-66 and three more than James Callaghan inherited in 1976. Given that both stayed in office, with Wilson completing 64 government Bills in his first parliamentary session before going on to win the 1966 elecnearly three years with the help of the Lib-Lab pact, that might not seem so bad.

This time, though, the Government seems wrinkled and tired, not young like Labour in the mid-Sixties. And it has no Liberal support waiting in the wings, only the Ulster Unionists. They are unenthusiastic about Major, yet seem unwilling to strike him down. This kind of support is fraught with danger. The Unionists have left open the possibility of a sudden change of mind, which could happen on almost any issue at almost any time. David

Assuming the Government loses weakness will further inflame its two by-elections, that falls to nationalist suspicions. But the Unionist bloc now becomes vital to the polities of the year ahead.

Courtesy of Trimble, the Conservatives could still go the whole way to spring 1997. Throughout the Maastricht rebellion, Major's real majority was, on a series of importion and Callaghan stomping on for tant issues, even lower than it is this

> To state that, though, is only to begin the reckoning. For the hidden cause of the two centre-left defections from the Tory party in recent months derives from the Prime Minister's handling of the rebellion then. The rebels behaved with such nerve and discipline that Major decided he had to focus all his attention on the right - placating, haranguing, charming and eventually confronting them, while taking the Tory left for granted.

He calculated that the Conservatives were moving remorselessly rightwards; his own speeches at times reflected this drift (it has never been a lurch), and his own position on European integration



ANDREW MARR

hardened. Pro-European ministers and backbenchers fumed and spoke privately of their despair. But for a

lime nothing happened.
What Major may have forgotten is that while the Tory right was virtually obliged to maximise its influence by forming cabals within the party (for they have nowhere else to go), the Tory left was starting to see an alternative politics opening up. In a parallel way, after the Callaghan years the Labour left plotted and caballed inside the party (for they had nowhere else to go) while the Labour centre-right broke away to form the SDP.

In recent years we have become used to the allure of the moderate, pro-European, reformist agenda of Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown for But Tory politicians have eyes to see and ears to hear, just like their followers, Neither Nicholson nor Alan MPs. Their social consciences were worryingly overdeveloped, unfashionably serious and occasionally a mild embarrassment. But if the Conservative Party really does move to a mix of anti-Europeanism and

for a bigger shift.

Am I predicting a Christian Democrat breakaway to mimic the SDP? No. history never quite repeats itself. The SDP happened to a shattered party in opposition. whose ideologues were trying to drag it against the flow of world history. The numbers involved and the seniority of the defectors were of a quite different order to now. The Roy Jenkinses, Shirley Williamses and David Owens of modcrate Toryism - Leon Brittan, Lord Howe, Chris Patten, Kenneth Clarke - are still loyal. But there is life in the comparison, all the same. Consider: how did the SDP most

electoral challenge, more the deadly message sent to the whole British electorate that Labour was extreme. Howarth were typical Conservative no longer a party for "the rest of us". Voters were already inclined to believe this, and Labour took well

over a decade to recover. The Conservatives are still in office, and in their case it might only take a few defectors making a similar point about extremism and a few Newt Gingrich-style radicalism - "a liar point about extremism and a tew Little England and Smaller State" - more speeches from Michael Portuguia. then such people may be outriders tillo of the kind he gave at last year's party conference for the image of Tory wildness to take hold in people's minds. If so, the disorganised flight by a handful of backbench MPs could have almost as harmful an impact on the Conservatives as the whole complex saga of the SDP

had on Labour. And there will be some more reckoning yet. The experience of Wilson in 1964-66 and then in 1974-76, and of Callaghan in 1976-79, was that although governing on a small or nil majority was possible and brought modest daily triumphs, it was destructive in the longer term. They were in office and even in power - but rarely in authority.

former Tory voters and activists. hurt Labour? It was less by hard Their reputations were dulled by the twisting wheedling and deal-making to keep their governments alive: the 'fudge and mudge" from which Owen famously revolted was a habit of mind tutored by years of close

late-night votes in the Commons. There is a logic at work here. Small majorities make leaders compromise with the wild men of their party: such compromises repel the moderate supporters and in time the whole party is tainted as wild. It has happened before. It is happening now. It may not have an impact on the timing of the election; but it will surely have an impact on the result. which matters rather more.

The damage done by posturing tribunes on the Tory right to their party's prospects is incalculable. However great the fury of Tory lead-ers about Nicholson's defection, they should remember that the public cares far less than they for that obscure quality, party loyalty, it is far more interested in her message about extremism, and is listening attentively to the tone and timbre of their accusing voices. Be calm, gentlemen: be calm and be a little humble - you have no better option left.

Not since the Corn Laws has a Tory party split been so damaging as that over European Union, warns Emma Nicholson

Little England has no future

Why have I quit the Con-servative Party - and ioined the Liberal Democrats? Let me dismiss out of hand

some of the implausible explanations generated by the Conservative Central Office propaganda machine in the past 48 hours. I can assure readers of the Independent that it has not been out of "ambitious careerista" or "personal pique".

These attempts at trivialisation of what has been an agonisingly difficult personal decision are unworthy, although perhaps not surprising. But they also underestimate the nature of the crisis that besets the Government of this country and our whole political system, which have led me to this

The Conservative government led by John Major seems paralysed by indecision, waiting for an election which cannot long be delayed and relying increasingly on the worst, hardfaced, populist instincts of people who would have been no more than a small and disregarded right-wing pressure group in the Tory party that I joined 21 years ago. The party has changed - and for the

Nowhere, however, is the absence of strong strategic leadership more serious than on the issue of our membership of the European Union. We are now witnessing as serious a chasm in the governing party on this issue as the Conservatives experienced on the issue of the

\$ 3745 North

Corn Laws in the 19th century. Unfortunately, and this has been decisive for me, it seems that the Prime Minister has come down on the side of chanvinism, reflected not only in growing Euro-scepticism from

the Cabinet but in profoundly illiberal attitudes towards ethnic minorities and such unfortunate people as asylum-

Europe is our present and our future. That is why I have been dismayed that the lack of decisive leadership has threatened the advance we need to make to reach the heart of Europe. That is where Britain must be to exert its full influence, both for its own benefit and for all the nation states of the European Union, and to work together for "la culture de la paix", with international solutions to problems and conflicts worldwide.

For instance, I am involved in a campaign to promote understanding between the European and Islamic civilisations, so important on Europe's eastern borders, as we have seen in Bosnia and in our relations with Turkey.

We must draw upon the European Union's great strengths while correcting its weaknesses in order to derive the maximum benefit. We certainly need more openness. democracy and tolerance in Europe, but getting Europe right is the most important issue for our nation and every one of our citizens - for their prosperity, their jobs, their welfare and their well-being.

It is no good procrastinating, abandoning or fudging great principles and hopes in order to satisfy the Little Englanders. The debate was long ago joined and the issue decided. We have already had one referendum confirming our membership.

We should heed Ted Heath's warnings made yesterday in response to my concerns: "There is no future for Britain

outside Europe. The rest of the world realises that and is astonished that we should even risk it. As therefore our future is in it, let us be positive about it and make a success out of it for ourselves and our fellow members." My own sentiments exactly. I am a Euro-pragmatist who wants to work inside the Community instead of standing

sneering on the touchlines. If Europe has been the catalyst for my decision, there have been a host of other causes which have come together in such a way that unease has turned to disenchantment and, in the end, to this tough parting of the ways.
One example is education. I

have a great personal commitment to better education. I want every child to have the opportunity, as of right, to develop his or her potential and talents. Not just the sons and daughters of the rich and the middle classes, but also those in our most deprived villages, city areas and housing estates. They deserve that right as well. I want smaller classes, better teachers, a generous supply of textbooks and other literature, computer technology and modern buildings to replace those that are old and dilapidated. That means investment. But it is essential that we invest in our children, who are our nation's future. both morally and intellectually.

On the crucial issues that matter most to me - such as Europe - the Liberal Democrats have been clear and consistent. On education they have made a pledge to raise standards, even if it means higher personal taxation. The more I have found myself at odds with Conservative policies and atti-



Emma Nicholson at home yesterday: 'We must draw upon the European Union's great strengths while correcting its weaknesses'

how closely the Liberal Democrats mirror my own hopes and

MPs on all sides have been aware of my unhappiness. I had already resigned as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to enable me to campaign more vigorously and openly for the causes I espouse.

Europe and education are dom, to get involved and to the keys to a better future, but make their own decisions. I

needs a more fundamental regeneration of its democracy if we are to become a country of confident citizens once more. We need to spread power instead of concentrating it, and holding it tight, thus enabling our fellow countrymen and women to extend their free-

tudes, the more I have realised it is now clear that Britain also believe that the creation of freedom with responsibility represents a profound moral challenge to all of us in politics.

I am confident that as an active Liberal Democrat I can now contribute my talents to to share knowledge instead of create a Britain of the 21st century which we can all learn to be proud of once again.

The writer is MP for Devon West

Oxford? Sorry prof, I'm into media studies When a candidate opts for Birmingham instead, something is amiss in higher education

Since becoming an Oxford don were encouraged to increase their intakes, is at last slithering backwards. felt more and more like a monk shortly before the dissolution of the monasteries. As 1996 commences, that feeling of impending disaster is

stronger than ever. There is a difference, however. The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII was essentially a political act: it was by confiscating and selling the assets of the religious orders that the king was able to buy support for his reformation of the church. (Royal claims that the monasteries were dens of vice were largely fictitious.)

If the dissolution of the ancient universities happens, however, it will be brought about by the "monks" themselves. This time dissolution will be a case of surreptitious - and perhaps even subconscious - suicide. And the "abuses" of which the universities will be accused will exist largely in the minds of those who teach there.

These morose reflections are not, I hasten to add, prompted by the news that (to quote yesterday's Sunday Time's) "the rush for a degree has come to a halt". In fact, the latest fig-ures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), which show an 8 per cent drop in the number of university applicants compared with last year, are great news. What they reveal is that the Government's ill-judged "Great Leap Forward, whereby the polytechnics were renamed universities and all the others fear poses the biggest threat to our

In the Seventies, no more than one in 10 18-year-olds went to university. Since then, that proportion has been pushed up to about a third, with no accompanying increase in funding. Inevitably, therefore, more has meant worse - and the Ucas figures show a

healthy reaction against this. Significantly, it is the "new" universities that have fared worst this year. At Thames Valley and Anglia, applications have fallen by more than 50 per cent; for Derby and De Montfort, the figure is 37 per cent. In other words, sixth-formers have voted with their feet against Mickey Mouse degrees from Disneyland universities.

Also languishing, however, are the post-war glass-and-concrete universities. Once-trendy Sussex has seen applications fall by 40 per cent. Even the LSE, another mecca of Sixties studentdom, has had 13 per cent fewer applications.

The clear winners are Cambridge, where applications have gone up by 4.8 per cent, and Oxford, where they

have slipped by a mere 2.8 per cent. That is the good news. The bad news is not so clearly visible in the statistics. It is only when you have gone through the Oxbridge admissions process (as I have just done) that you detect the problem of qualitative decline. It is the decline of standards at the secondary school level which I



traditional "centres of excellence". Let me hasten to add that this decline is far from affecting all schools. On the contrary, there continue to be many - mostly, though far from exclusively, in the independent sector whose standards are impressively high.

Each year, I examine and interview about 35 applicants who want to read history at my college, of whom about seven or eight are offered places (conditional on good A-level results). You might think such a harsh selection would be difficult to make. But every year I am impressed at how easy the process is. In truth, more than half of those who apply are non-starters. And the shocking thing is the low quality of schooling they have received compared with the seven clear winners.

If I had to pick out one source of this discrepancy, I would blame the rise of what might be called pulp education. The schools that produce the strong candidates are, generally speaking, those that teach the traditional "hard" subjects at A-level. The schools that have opted for "softer" subjects store for all Oxbridge disciplines. The placed to apply for the chair.

- or trendier A-level boards - gravely handicap their pupils' chances of attending an élite university.

Yet there is no doubt about which way the tide is flowing. Last year's Alevel statistics saw a continuing decline in the number of entries for physics and mathematics, of the order of 4 per cent (the previous year the fig-ure was 6 per cent). Entries for psychology rose 13 per cent, while candidates for sports studies went up by more than a third. To put it another way, the total entry for maths and physics was equal to the total entry for communication studies, expressive arts, home economics, media studies, political studies, psychology, sociology and sport.

That has had its effects at university level. Applications for media studies courses rose by 54.5 per cent this year, overtaking demand for maths places.

The implication of this trend for Oxford and Cambridge is clear. So long as we do not offer such superficially alluring courses, our pool of potential applicants seems likely to stagnate, and perhaps even to decline. To give a single example, I know of one applicant this year, offered an unconditional place to read English at Oxford, who is considering turning it down to do media studies at Birmingham instead.

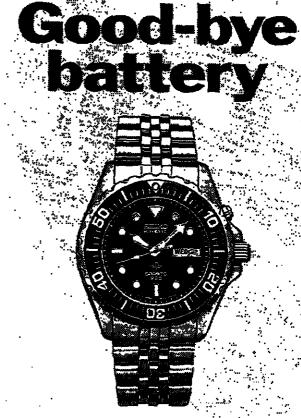
If this becomes more common, the fate of traditional subjects such as classics and chemistry may yet lie in

ratio of places to applications in those two subjects already exceeds 60 per cent, so steep has been the decline in the number of applicants.

What this means is that Oxford and Cambridge are becoming increasingly traditionalist institutions, teaching traditional subjects to the best products of traditional schools. Now, that is all right by me. But I am a notorious educational conservative and I suspect it is not all right by most of my colleagues, who harbour the politically correct desire to make the undergraduate body more "socially representative". In the pursuit of this goal, they recently voted overwhelmingly to abolish the entrance examination, one of the last vestiges of the colleges' distinctive admissions system - despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that this will make the process of selection signif-

icantly less objective. I cannot help wondering with trep-idation what fresh "reforms" they will come up with in the new year, once they realise that this alone will not end the over-representation of the traditional (and mostly independent) schools at Oxbridge. Already, we have created a heavily over-subscribed course in economics and management. How long before the cry goes up for a degrée course in media studies?

Ah well, I suppose I should look on the bright side. At least I will be well



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Bottom 20 losers in 1995

The Independent offers readers a choice of four share tip portfolios for the coming year - complete with a health warning

Unipalm leads the pack through Internet gateway

real and rumoured, helped push it is fitting that a share which featured in one of the most unusual bids of 1995 should emerge top of the pile.

Unipalm outperformed all other shares, surging 455 per cent to 50p. Nimble footed investors could have claimed even more from the Internet gateway company as the shares briefly stretched to 875p.

At the other end of the scale is Ferrum, an engineer where \hat{a}_{-} restructuring looks inevitable. It has the dubious distinction of suffering a 94 per cent decline.

The list of the 20 best and worst performing shares once again underlines that it is down among the second-liners and obscure fringe stocks where the greatest ability to out or underperform lurks.

Blue chips are conspicuous by their absence. Indeed the best of the FT-SE 100 constituents. Dixons, which joined the index last week, managed a 131 per cent gain and Burton 98 per cent compared with the 178 per cent achieved by Coda, a com-

In a year when takeovers, both puter group which emerged as the twentieth best performing share. But, on the same yardstick, blue chip losses are much more comfortable. P&O. afflicted by profit fears and dividend worries, is the worst performing Footsie stock with 23 per cent decline.

The regional electricity comcumbing to takeover bids or offering unimagined rewards to their shareholders in a desperate attempt to keep the marauders at bay, failed to feature

and SG Warburg their independence - many a shrewd punter would have banked on ly been deferred, Standard is regarded in some quarters as the As they surged so did Unipalm. hot tip for a bid this year.



Derek Pain, Stock Market Reporter panies. For years Farringford of the Year, reviews the leading share price winners and the heaviest

more alert investor. Then came an announcement bid talks panies, which spent the year suc- were underway and the stock market excitedly anticipated an offer in the region of 700p.

The offer, after weeks of uncertainty, materialised at nearer 450p - in the Nasdaq traded paper of bidder UUNet Techin the top 20.

Best of the financials is Standard Chartered. At the height based group. Unipalm slumped as speculators not wishing to Nasdaq traded shares sold in the market. But they quickly rued their haste. For UUNet is 15 per Standard falling victim to a cent owned by Microsoft and bid. Hope has, however, mere-suddenly the Bill Gates magic started to influence its shares.

An offer from Goldman Unipalm came to market at Sachs of a low cost dealing fa-100p in March 1994. Its shares cility in UUNet probably tempt-

provider started to attract the UUNet performance lifted

Unipalm, giving a final offer value of around 740p, although the shares were squeezed up to 875p. When first posted the offer valued Unipalm at £97m; the closing price was £152m. It was a splendid run for managing director Peter Dawe who likes to describe himself as a "failed accountant". He left the com-

pany some £36.4m richer. Not surprisingly bio-technology babes are well repre-sented in the top 20. In a year which has seen some remarkable displays the likes of Oxford Molecular and Chiroscience are to the fore. So is British Biotech, which has surged 233 per cent on cancer drug hopes. It is now valued at £875m.

Farringford's presence shows that even in these days of booming high technology stocks there is still money to be made in spot-

has sought a role, flirting with reverse takeover deals as directors came and went.

Enter Trevor Hemmings. a director of the Scottish & Newcastle brewing giant. He made his fortune, estimated at £250m. from Pontins holiday camps. now owned by S&N. Through his Northern Trust Co he built a significant stake in Farringford, which has been as high as 18p, and then arranged for it to manage 210 pubs owned by a company where he and S&N are shareholders. Mr Hemmings still has pubs in his private portfolio and the betting is they will be pumped into Farringford which had retained its quote through its ownership of

Pan Andean Resources is the top performer on the Alternative Investment Market. It is in the stable of the Dublin entrepreneur John Teeling and has promising oil developments in Bolivia.

solitary hotel.

Alvis is probably the most staid and longest established group in the top 30. This maker of armoured fighting vehicles

	Top 20 wi	nners in 1	995
		1995 closing price	Year's %
	Unipalm	650n	455
	Oxford Molecular	650p 266p	339
	Azian	503g	265
	Learmont Burchett		256
	Pan Andean Res	17.5p	250
	Famingford	15.5p	244
	Chiroscience	327p	237
	British Biotech	1.805	233
	MAID		229
	Hampden	321 <i>p</i> 80p	228
	Forward	620p	218
	Alvis	140p	218
	Psion .	780p	212
	Filtronic Comtek	496p	191
	Riva	29 ₀	190
	Shield Diag	162p	189
	Bland	15p	186
1	Blagg Specialeyes	170	183
	Northamber	255p	180
	Coda	2140	178

has soared on the back of all shells offer quick rewards. It sharply higher profits from big overseas orders.

The motley band of losers are spread over many industries, ranging from engineering to marketing. And one, United Breweries, underlines that not picked up a chain of pubs during the year, collecting new management in the process. The changes have yet to influence the shares and sharebeing deferred for a long time.

Holmes & M

Penokalen

Beverley

Brit Building

Tadpole Tech

Premier Health

Regent Coro

Cardinal Bus:

The best known casualties are the seemingly perennially damaged Eurotunnel, once again deeply involved in talks with its bankers, and Cray Electronics which switched from high flyer

bumped along around their ed some to accept the US placing level until April last year when its role as an Internet group's shares rather than sell is still money to be made in spot-in the market. The rip roaring ting old fashioned shell com-From footwear to video, fund managers spread the risks

Many thanks to the five fund the Thomson UK newspapers. The acquisition will add more Independent share tipping race a year ago. We are glad to say that twice that number have joined in this time.

wide range of results, from the accelerating earnings, the disappointing Govett & Co. shares at 342p are cheap. disappointing Govett & Co. which slipped 35 per cent, and Berisford, a 10 per cent faller. to Rank, which trod water, and the stars Dorling Kindersley, up 66 per cent, and Celltech, which ended the year 149 per cent

Congratulations to Bernard Clark, our winner in 1995, who tipped Dorling, and to Philip Winston, who recommended Cellicch. A bottle of bubbly is on its way to BZWIM. Here are this year's entrants:

Bernard Clark Lloyds Investment Managers

Recent acquisitions from Atomic Energy Authority have given Sema Group a quantum leap into the European big league of well managed computer services companies such as Cap Gemini. Andersen Consulting and EDS (Europe). The industry is still growing fast. Sema's 53op share price could double by the end of 19%.

Philip Winston BZW Invest-

Trinity International had an eventful year, becoming the largest UK regional newspaper

Beristord ...

share price, pence

metropolitan franchises - no-tably Belfast and Newcastle - to its already strong stable of papers. Currently on a market rat-Last year's crop produced a ling but with the prospect of

> Colin McLean Scottish Value Management

Where under-utilised assets or brands are brought under new management, there is often good potential for value to be released. My share for 1996 -Scholl, the personal care products business - fits this category. Scholl has considerable on a neglected brand. Led by a new chief executive with extensive consumer products experience, the business is behas reported a strong first half software. Eidos's technology are now well below their recent highs. I believe there could be a rerating of Scholl's shares ~ currently 194p - even without

Tom Crombie Scottish Equi-

It is not going to be easy to make money in 1996. I think the best chance will be to find a laggard stock that comes right. There are many laggards to choose from, and my choice is Arjo Wiggins in the paper and pack-

Celltech Group

share price, pence

Fund managers Arjo Wiggins British Biotech Scholl Trinity International

the market in 1995. Profits have been under severe pressure, and brokers' forecasts are still probably not low enough. At 165p, the shares look attractive.

potential to improve the return Justin Seager, Kleinwort Benson Investment Management. Eides combines high growth potential from the evolution of visual media, with an existing ing refocused. Already Scholl earnings stream from games enabling them to operate on a standard personal computer. This technology is available at an affordable cost using existing CD-ROM drives, avoiding the need for expensive up-

Richard Lehman, Royal Insurance Asset Management Shares in British Biotech nearaging sector. It has been one of ly trebled last year largely as a tionships with Coca-Cola and the worst performing shares in result of promising preliminary Pepsi in Drinks Dispense will by a more rapid pace of corpo-

Dorling Kindersley

seek a Nasdaq ADR listing in

the spring of 1996, which should

widen awareness of the com-

pany's oral cancer drug. Analysts generally agree that the drug has the potential to achieve sales of £500m by being used to treat several solid tumour cancers, but they differ on what chance Marimastat has of reaching the market. While it is a risky investment, we believe that British Biotech shares will perform strongly before Marimastat's planned launch in 1999.

Vanessa James, Legal & Gen-

Tomkins, headed by Greg Hutchings, should finally rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the UK stockmarket by the pending acquisition of Gates Rubber, a private US company. It is Tomkins's first major foray back into its base industrial business since the Rank Hovis Mc-Dougall acquisition. We expect shares, now 282p, to follow.

Mark Wasilewski, NatWest Investment Management

Having underperformed the market by a fifth in 1995, IMI grades. The company, shares in which trade at 693p, intends to a re-rating. Since 1990, profits shares at 328.5p are poised for have been poor because of subdued markets, writing-off the previous mistakes and a torrid time in the titanium market. However, major restructuring and improved market conditions promise recovery. Rela-



In the frame: Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, tipped for 1996 both by fund managers and the Independent City team

provide secure earnings in the rate activity. With an order US, backed by additional book of £14bn the potential for growth in immature European and Asian markets.

Kevin Fenelon, Scottish Ami-GEC is set to produce strong outperformance in 1996. Not only are the fundamentals improving rapidly but shareholder value will also be unlocked How they did last year: the 1995 performance of the shares selected by fund managers on this page a year ago

Mike Grimble, Norwich Union The strong advances in the US and UK equities in particular put these markets on demanding ratings in historic terms. Any failure to meet profits growth expectations in 1996, as economic growth slows, could cause the markets to sell off. In the spirit of the contest, and looking, for once, through short term glasses, one stock which could perform relatively well in 1996 is BTR. Earnings could prove more resilient than the market's current pessimistic view, and from the base of a relatively high yield, the stock

book of £14bn the potential for

growth is enormous. Further

upside potential arises from

the imminent retirement of

management changes will her-

Lord Weinstock, Subsequent

ald much sharper focus on the

delivery of shareholder returns.

Shares are currently at 355p.

The funds managed by our tip-

could outperform in 1996.

A touch of spice and solid stocks

Putting together a portfolio in what has been a very strong year for the stockmarket is more than usually challenging. For 1996 the Independent City desk has tried to spread its risk widely, covering spicy stocks (some from the new AlM market) and other hopefully solid performers. The 10 shares chosen range from the FT-SE 100 to the market's smallest minnows. Here's hoping for another prosperous year. The market had been waiting

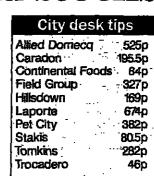
for Tomkins's next big deal since the poorly received Ranks Hovis McDougall buy three years ago. So it was no surprise that the market warmed to the recent Gates purchase. In the year to April 1997, the shares traded on a p/e of 13 and yield 4.3 per cent which hardly reflects the quality and likely change in

sentiment as Gates is bedded in. The Trocadero is something of a blue sky investment. The erty group Burford and now quoted on AIM, is very much in its infancy. It has enormous potential, located in one of the to this Cinderella of the drinks busiest streets for London's tourist trade. A gamble at 46p on the entrepreneurial skills of the Burford team, Nick Leslau

and Nigel Wray. Jim Leng put 30p on to the price of Laporte shares when his appointment as chief executive was unveiled in August. Just over three months later he wiped all that off and more, leaving the shares 1890 down at a year's low of 613p, after he announced an £85m restructuring charge and profits warning. Unless trading is absolutely gruesome. Laporte can only move ahead this year.

Field Group has had a strong run in 1995 after the market finally woke up to the virtues of this maker of upmarket cartons. The shares have taken nearly two years to break decisively through the 250p issue price as shares are still good value on a forward rating of under 14.

Pet City was one of the more colourful new issues of 1995 and could prove one of the most successful. When the shares were placed on the AIM in December they soared to a near 20 per



cent premium. The company opcrates 35 pet superstores and aims to build a chain of 300 over the next eight years.

It was a grim 1995 for food companies; the sector was laid low by rising raw material prices and the hot summer. Our tip of Hillsdown is founded on the premise that 1996 can hardly be any worse. The shares fell from 200p in August to 169p by the year end.

Sir Christopher Hogg, the former Courtaulds chairman, can bring a more focused approach giants. The shares have relentlessly underperformed both the market and other drink shares and could quickly respond.

Continental Foods is the market leader in children's snacks, an area more prosperous than the ailing crisp market. It is buying a big rival for about £10m. Profits last year were £1.1m and more than £2.2m seems likely this year.

The leisure sector will yield an ample share of the stock market's shocks and pleasant surprises in 1996. Stakis, the hotels and casinos company, is well placed to power ahead. Profits are forecast to surge more than 20 per cent to circa £31m, and there is also a chance of a bid.

Picking potential winners among the big guns of British industry is, as ever, fraught with worries over paperboard costs started to subside. At 327p the are fully valued, leaving indifficulties. Many of the shares vestors to pick and choose among recovery plays.

With this in mind, the Caradon building products group looks as good a bet as any. At 195p, the price is now 20p above the year's low and some 80p shy of its 1995 peak.

Winning formula from the O'Higgins chemistry set did both last year and have re-

+29.4

+31.6

192.5p

199.5p

MEPC

Thames Water Redland

Legal & General

Sun Alliance

Thames Water

General Accident

British Steel North West Water

have worked just as well in the

UK. Adapted to the London

stockmarket, this involves the

following three simple steps:

Choose the ten highest yielding shares from the FT-SE 100.

Of these, pick the five with

the lowest share price. If you

think the lowest share price is

a crude measure, choose the five

with the lowest market capital-

isations (as the tables show, we

P&O

+16.1 -15.4

£2.9bn

£3.1bn

en investors far and away the best investment return. Superior performance, however, comes at the price of higher risk and assembling a portfolio that reduces danger while maximising returns is a big challenge.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Douglas Ferrans, Scottish Amicable:

Now 204p, -10.5%

A year ago we composed two portfolios based on the investment thinking of Michael O'Higgins, an American fund manager who claims in a fascinating book called Beating the Dow to have found a share selection technique that can sistently, without increasing volatility or risk. The O'Higgins theory is based on three basic premises about share selection. It is a simple technique for private investors to use and needs little in-depth knowledge of individual stocks. Some fund management groups are adopting the technique for PEP plans.

His first criterion for selection is size, on the grounds that leading companies are considerably less likely to fail

completely. Eliminating that possibility reduces risk, especially for small portfolios.

Secondly, Mr O'Higgins looks for high yielding shares. He believes a low share price relative to a stock's dividend payout is the best indication of a share being irrationally out of favour. The other advantage of high yield is that, on a cumulative basis, the income from a share represents a very high proportion of its total return over the years. The difference in total return between two shares with the same capital growth but yields of say 4 per cent and 6 per cent will be massive over a period of more than a few years. Finally he looks for low

priced shares as the companies tend to be the smallest of the Top 100 and can grow faster. The success of the system over the past two decades has been extremely consistent. Over more than 18 years to 1991. portfolios selected on the

O'Higgins criteria would have

J F M A M J J A S D N D Philip Winston, BZWIM: The O'Higgins portfolios Last year's selections

Hanson

MEPC

FTSE100

Legal & General

By share price

British Steel

National Grid

Hanson

This year's portfolio

return (with dividends rein-

vested) of 19.4 per cent com-

pared with 10.4 per cent for the

Dow Jones index. To put that in

perspective, £10,000 invested in

the O'Higgins portfolios would

have grown to almost £250,000

over the period. The same

amount invested in a portfolio

matching the performance of

the Dow would be worth only

share price, pence J F M A M J J A S O N D Bernard Clark, Lloyds Investment Dorling Kindersley, 321p.

GUYELL & GU
380 share price, pence
360
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280
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240
220 — — — —
JFMAMJJASOND
Colin McLean, Scottish Value
Govett & Co, 356p.
Now 231p, -35%.
A 4774

ett & Co 🔑	Rank Organisatió
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	450
 .	440
	430
	420
~~~~	410
. <b>V</b>	400
1.0	390
VA	380
	370
®پيپيي	360
MIJASOND	. JFMAMJJASO
Scottish Value	David Rough, Legal & Genera
56n	Bank, 417.5n

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420	- THE - THE
410	<u> 4. LIL</u>
400	
390	7
380	
370	
360	
	NIJASOND
David Rough, Le	egai & General,
Rank, 417.5p.	

neated the dual selection.

□ Buy the shares and sit on

## Now 466p, +11.6%

them for 12 months before repeating the first two steps and rejigging the portfolio.
So how did the system work last year and which shares does it throw up for a 1996 portfolio? Interestingly there was little difference in performance between the portfolios selected for low share prices and for market value. Both broadly matched the performance of the

have slightly outperformed. The lowest share price portfolio included only one howler. Hanson, which continued to suffer from market scepticism.

FT-SE 100 index, but including

their higher yields they would

MEPC trod water as property remained in the doldrums, but the buoyant fortunes of the financial sector drove the remaining three shares to stunning outperformance. BAT flourished on break-up speculation. Bid speculation lit a fire under L&G, and an upturn in the insurance cycle lifted Sun Alliance. Legal & General, MEPC

and Sun Alliance also turned up in the market value-based portfolio, together with Thames Water, a strong performer, and Redland, which usefully showed why the system is not fail-safe. Redland cut its dividend, proving that sometimes shares offer high yield for a good reason. Shares slumped almost a fifth. Looking forward, a recent

trawl of the highest yielding Footsic came up with the following: P&O. Hanson, British Gas, British Steel, Allied Domecq. BT. National Grid. Thames Water, North West Water and General Accident. The two portfolios which we will track throughout next year are shown in the tables.

Remember, if you use the O'Higgins technique as a longterm savings plan, put the shares into a personal equity plan. That way the generous yields will compound tax free. Tom Stevenson

### As easy as child's

To inject a bit of festive fun into this year's share tips from the City professionals, our City staff and Michael O'Higgins, the American investment guru, we also include a portfolio of 10 stocks chosen at random by Florence Warner, aged 41/2, the daughter of the Independent Business and City Editor.

Random selection can often prove as fruitful a method of picking stock market winners as the most carefully researched nortfolios.

We nonetheless present the following selection with an appropriately unambiguous health-warning.

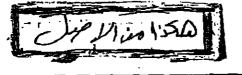
The first company selected by throwing a hall-point pen at the share price pages - was Bensons Crisps, an out of favour penny stock which is currently



languishing at 27p. Believe it, or not, the pen then homed in on Mirror Group - a major shareholder in the Independent which trades at 176p.

Florence, who was by now displaying all the signs of an out of form dart player, hit the following targets and accompany-

Powerhouse 2.5p. GUS 685p. Next 456p, Quicks Group 135p. Mercury Euro Partnership 91.5p. Christie Group 211p. Guinness Peat Group 32.5p. and finally Essex Furniture 107p.



generated a compound annual £60,000. The method would

pick of the day

THE PEACOCK SPRING 9pm BBC1-

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This undernanding but pleasant slice of late Fifties life in India is based on Runer Godden's novel, following a young schoolgirl (Hattie Morahan) who is summoned from England to New Delhi to join her diplomat father (Peter Egan) and a glamorous "governess". She becomes involved with one of the locals (Naveen



Morahan and Andrews in bloom

With the Jane Austen seams nearing exhaustion (both Emma and Sense and Sensibility have been completed and are ready to roll), a new source is required to fuel the growing public demand for drama with costumes. So step forward Thomas Hardy, reckoned by television much of a frock man.

is a world charged with passion, romance, characters learn that the laws of nature are check; his books do not have happy endings. It is worth reminding yourself of Hardy's intensity as a writer, because you would of his **Return of the Native** (Sun BBC2).

In order to condense his vision into 100 had been stripped, leaving a frail skeleton review

executives to have significant reserves of both the farcical. It was like a Stella Gibbons to exploit. Although in his case it is more parody out there, all childish misunder-melodrama, and frankly he wasn't that standings and intimations of dark deeds, standings and intimations of dark deeds, letters going astray and doors not being Hardy occupies ground somewhere answered, Celia Imrie and Joan Plowright between the coy irony of Austen and the sexual psychobabble of DH Lawrence. His for the Hammer House of Horror. Laughable scene followed laughable scene: the first disappointment, idealism and fatalism; his meeting of the lovers, through the clearing mist with a heavenly chorus syruping away there to keep any human ambition in in the background; the participants in the rural love pentangle all arriving beside a raging torrent at the same moment; the hooded heroine braving the final storm never have guessed it from the adaptation looking like a participant in a Scottish Widows television commercial.

The real crime of this production, though, minutes, all the scale of Hardy's creation was the way the tragic collision between the compulsive idealism of Clym Yeobright and of a plot which frequently vecred towards Eustacia Vye (she casts him as her ticket Hardy's real hero: Egdon Heath,

out of the choking claustrophobia of her surroundings; he sees her as the reason to stay) were reduced to the pat incompatibility of Curly and Raquel Actually, that's not fair: Curly and Raquel's relationship is realised with considerably more subtlety.

It wasn't helped by the acting. A smudge of Goth-style mauve lipstick and a continent. Malle managed to turn up image geographically uncertain accent were not sufficient to transform Catherine Zeta adverts look positively frugal; the funeral Jones into the woman of appetite and zest procession led by a band tunelessly playing that is Eustacia. Instead, she played her as the pricktease of Egdon Heath. "I have this great fear that the excitement will not last," she said, early on. We should have trusted her judgment on that one.

And Ray Stevenson was such a weakjawed wimp of a Clym that you felt like reaching into the screen and slapping him about the face with a damp Marigold glove. He wasn't just visually impaired; Stevenson played him as a version of Pete Townshend's Tommy: deaf, dumb and blind. But most particularly dumb. Not that everything was miscast, however. Exmoor should receive a Bafta for the brilliance of its portrayal of

Also looking sumptuous was "Louis Malle's India" in Fine Cut (Sun BBC2). Re-cut as a tribute to the director who died in 1995, it was, apparently, the work of which Malle was most proud. You could see why.

In essence it's a grand video diary: on his seven-month journey through the subafter image which made those Indi-ahh "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"; the camel that was going round in endless circles, mixing cement; the ascetic wandering the streets of Delhi wearing, for no apparent reason, 100 skewers embedded in his person.

The Indian government went apoplectic when the film was first screened, throwing the BBC out of the country. Twenty-five years on, it is hard to see why, unless they simply got bored of long sequences involving folk-dancing and fishing. Or perhaps, as the Exmoor tourist board may feel when it catches sight of Return of the Native, they just didn't want the rest of the world to get the impression that everyone who lives there is barking.

#### film of the day

DEFENCE OF THE REALM 11.15pm C4

The late Denholm Elliott is in some danger of being best remembered for his embarrassing performance as an imbecilic curator in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. This efficient thriller shows him in a marginally more dignified light, as a boozy journalist investigating the conspiracy behind an apparent political sex scandal involving Greta Scacchi.



Greta love hath no man

#### BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Classical Music Animations. 7.25 Favourite Songs. 7.50 Joshua Jones. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Joe 90. 8.45 Peter Pan and the Pirates. 9.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties. 9.30 Stone Protectors. 9.55 Blue Peter - High Adventure.

10.25 The Princess and the Goblin. Animation. A princess Is forced to marry an ugly goblin. Social satire for the Nineties, voiced by Joss Ackland, Rik Mayall and

Mollie Sugden (6273468). 11.45 Bugsy Malone (Alan Parker 1976 UK). Allsinging, all-dancing, all-child gangster movie in which the gunfights consist of foam and custard pies. Jodie

Foster stars (632517). * 1.15 News; Weather (73742710). * 1.25 Neighbours (S) (57615343). *

1.45 EastEnders (R) (S) (4950130). *

· 2.40 Essi Suburban Commando (Burt Kennedy 1991 US). Wrestling star Hulk Hogan makes the break for movie success as an alien living underground in the

suburbs. Surprisingly diverting (S) (1169888). * 4.05 Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood. With a stupid and lazy wolf (voiced by Danny DeVito), an alcoholic granny and a wilfully cruel Red Riding Hood Unite Walters) (S) (8994420). *

4.50 Final Score (S) (9452642).

5.15 News, Local News, Weather (4892178). * 5.30 Neighbours (R) (S) (494536). *

5.55 Never Say Never Again (Irvin Kershner 1983 US). Biofeld has his eye on world domination again. The grizzled Sean Connery comes back into bondage to foil him. Pleasant semi-spoof, with Klaus Maria Brandauer, Barbara Carrera and Kim Basinger (S) (59604517). *

8:00 EastEnders (S) (9569), *

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Return of the time-travel sitcom. Gary wants to see in both New Years. Ho ho ho (9246). *

9.00 The Peacock Spring. 1/2. New Defhi, 1959. A diplomat's daughter pals up with a local gardener and causes scandal in this two-part adaptation of Rumer Godden's novel. See Pick of the Day (S) (6757739).

10.25 News, Local News, Weather (357913). * 10.45 Match of the Day. Highlights of Liverpool vs Nottingham Forest, and Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester United (S) (826275).

11.35 The Rolling Stones: Voodoo Lounge Live. The Stones, live in Miami (S) (208055). 1.10 Carry on Doctor (Gerald Thomas 1968 UK).

Oo-err, Nurse, that's a big one etc (4043918). * 2.40 Weather (7691260). To 2.40am.

REGIONS. Scot: 1.15pm News; Weather. 4.50 Afternoon Sportscene. 10.45 Sportscene - Match of the Day.

#### **BBC 2**

7.15 TIM The Square Peg (John Paddy Carstairs 1958 UK). An almost watchable Norman Wisdom comedy. In this, he is accidentally parachuted behind enemy lines during the war (477517).

8.45 FIRM A Day at the Races (Sam Wood 1937 US). One of the Marx Brothers' best showings. Something to do with a sanatorium, a group of bankers, a blond

siren and a steeplechase (30853197), 10.30 The Voyage of Charles Darwin (R) (76710). 12.30 Solti Conducts: The World Orchestra for Peace. A

part of the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations, Sir Georg Solti hand-picked a 90-piece orchestra to play in the Victoria Hall in Geneva. Including Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, the last scene from Beethoven's opera Fidelio and Rossini's William Tell Overture (S) (5648710).

1.50 1996 World Professional Darts Championship. Live coverage of first-round matches (S) (61766517). 4.15 Ski Sunday Special. Ski-jumping from Germany (S)

(7555998). 4.50 Coastermania. A history of the rollercoaster. They have their roots in 16th-century Russia, apparently (S)

(2104739). 5.40 Pavarotti and Domingo at the Met. The two heavyweight singers in a double-bill from New York's Metropolitan Opera, featuring Puccini's Il Tabarro, Leoncavallo's Pagliacci, and conductor James Levine (S) (21,453265).

8.00 Burt Bacharach... This is Now. Dusty Springfield narrates a profile of the Prince of Smooth (727994). 8.50 Another Foot in the Past (858246).

9.00 Arena. An exploration of the culinary world of Elvis Presley (1826). *

10.00 Fifth Grand Canyon (Lawrence Kasdan 1991 US). Danny Glover saves Kevin Kline from a gang attack. Kevin turns round Danny's lonely and girlfriend-less life in return. Then they help some teenagers. We-allhave-something-to-offer morality tale of the smugges and least inventive kind, with a welcome appearance by Steve Martin and his wiggly legs, plus Mary McDonnell, Mary-Louise Parker and Alfre Woodward (91105915).

**12.10 1996 World Pro** nal Darts Cha More first-round matches of this compelling spectacle. And that's just the players (9163005).

1.10 FISH The Days (Wang Xiaoshuai 1993 China). Slow but gripping portrait of the relationship between two artists in the fast-changing modern China. Both Dong and Chun teach at the Beijing Art School (1338717). 2.25 Weatherview (6676918). To 2.35am.

#### ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News and weather. 6.05 Features special, 7.00 News, 7.05 Tom and Jeny Kids, 7.30 Barney, 8,00 Galaxy High, 8,30 Starta and the Jewel Riders, 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (2233536).

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. A measily £250 up for grabs (S) (4779130).

9.55 Bugs Burny (12-11333).

10.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon (7830710). 10.35 Film Hill's Angels (Ted Kotcheff 1978 US). Leaden

cornedy in which a vicar's female parishioners form a crime squad (S) (37057246). 12.30 News; Weather (21927468). *

12.40 Make 'Em Laugh (R) (6001246). 1.10 III The Stalking Moon (Robert Muliman 1969 US). A scout helps a woman escape her Apache

captors. Stars Gregory Peck (29292178). 3.00 ETG On Her Majesty's Secret Service (Peter Hunt 1969 UK). Bond, Bond, Bond, George Lazenby's turn as the old roue, on the track, as usual, of the ruthless Blofeld. He's no Connery, but this is probably the best Bond movie, partly thanks to Diana Rigg's involvement as the most flesh-and-blood "Bond girl" yet, and partly thanks to the ski stunts and Alpine scenery (64503604). *

5.25 News; Weather (4876130). *

5.40 2002 Curty Sue (John Hughes 1991 US). A film with "Curly" in its title is bound to feature a cute moppet. This one (Alisan Porter), is half of a con-tricking double-act with James Belushi, cleaned up by lawyer Kelly Lynch (S) (49153420). *

7.30 Coronation Street. Curly and Raquel are in good spirits, you'll be glad to hear (81). * 8.00 Bruce's Price Is Right (S) (5807). *

8.30 The Ruth Rendell Mystery Movie: Heartstones. Daughter suspects father of bumping off his first wife

(60410). * 10.30 Call Red: Behind the Scenes (775178).

10.40 News; Weather (991008). *

10.50 Adrift (Christian Duguey 1993 US). Couple on cruise make the time-honoured mistake of rescuing a couple of strangers in distress (74484333). 12.40 Absence of Malice (Sydney Pollack 1980 US).

Reporter Sally Field is duped by the government. Intelligent exploration of the wrong side of the media (23949734),

2.50 TIM The Intruder (Guy Hamilton 1955 UK). War vets suffer hardships. Stars Jack Hawkins (8532289). 4.15 Profile (R) (S) (17143531). 4.25 Dead Men's Tales (18177395).

4.50 TIES Life in Danger (Terry Bishop 1959 UK).

Villagers hunt an escaped murderer (2258685). 5.55 News (7711463). To 6.00am.

#### **Channel 4**

6_35 Think Tank (R) (S) (5306401).

7.00 The Big Breakfast (36062). 9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (R) (4707913).

9.25 Babylon 5 (R) (S) (6106410). * 10.20 California Dreams (R) (1060246).

10.45 Biker Mice from Mars (7393333). 11.10 Mork and Mindy (R) (S) (9893517). * 11.40 The Morning Line. The day's nags previewed (S)

(5171401). 12.10 Sesame Street (5048159).

1.10 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham. Brough Scott introduces the 1.35 Seven Spings Novices Chase (2m 5f); 2.10 Steel Plate Trial Juvenile Novices Hurdle (2m 11): 2.45 A S W Handicap Chase (4m 1f); 3.20 Unicoin Homes Spa Hurdle (3m 110 yd) (84334410).

3,40 Snapshots: Enoch Powell. Enoch Powell returns to Cambridge University (R) (1488710). 4.00 Backdate. Valerie Singleton makes her C4 debut

with a new daily quiz show, testing contestants' memory about the last 50 years (10). 4,30 Countdown (S) (94). *

5.00 Love in the Afternoon (S) (6772). * 6.00 The Cosby Show (R) (59). *

6.30 Hollyoaks. The classless Chester teenagers organise a party. Followed by Channel 4 News Summary and Weather (S) (249710). *

7.05 Secrets of the Rainforest (S) (767791). 8.00 Stolen. A repeat Short Stories documentary in which an elderly woman tries to track down her porcelain collection, which was stolen in a break-in at her house

8.30 Muns on the Run (Jonathan Lynn 1990 UK). Incompetent crooks Eric Idle and Robbie Coltrane steal a million from the Triads and hide out in a numery. Not furnry (15761401). *

10.15 Glasshouse. Repeat Cutting Edge documentary about the military corrective training centre, or "glasshouse" in Colchester (R) (961371). *

11.15 Defence of the Realm (David Drury 1985 UK). Prime slice of 1980s paranoia, shot in sombre, muted tones and starring Gabriel Byrne as a journalist investigating the scandal surrounding an Opposition MP Greta Scacchi, Denholm Elliott and Ian Bannen co-star. See Film of the Day (110913

1.00 Fire Has Been Arranged (Leslie Hiscott 1935 UK). Released from jail, crooks Flanagan and Allen discover a shop has been built over the spot where they buried their ill-gotten gains. Worth it alone for the participation of the sublime Alastair Sim (9433181).

2.15 Calypso Season (R) (683717). To 3.15am.

#### ITV/Regions

As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street (6001246). 1.10 Film: Dennis. Comic strip cornecty (29292178). 12.40am Film: Bonnie and Clyde. edy (29292178). 12.40am Films Bornie and Clyde. Classic Interpretation of the US dream gone hero-ically sour, as a pair of gun-toting robbers (Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway) cruise across Depression-era America in search of fresh banks and Grocery stores to rob (640593), 2.40am Film: The Wild Bunch. Sam Peckinpah's violent, landmark Western starring William Holden (505-19579), 5.25-5.55am The Village Show (48734-12).

Year, Cornedy starring Peter Falk, Wendy Hughes and Charles Durning, An American version of Claude Lelouch's French caper La Bonne Annee in which a pair of sophisticated crooks set off for Palm Beach with plans of conning their way to a fortune (234111). 2.15am Film: The Pick-Up Artist. Ro-

As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street (6001245). 1.10 Film: A Green Journey, Romantic drame starring Angela Lansbury (29292178). 12.40am Film: Bonnie and Clyde (640598). 2.40am Film: The Wild Bunch. Western starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine and Robert Ryan (50549579). 5.25am The Village Show (4454444). 5.30-5.55am An Invitation to Remember (4464821).

As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street (6001246), 1.10 Alice in Wonderland (5029130). 2.35 The Munsters Today (1173807). 12.40am Film: Bonnie and Clyde (640598). 2.40am Film:

As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street (6001246). 1.10 Film: Return of the Seven, Westem starring Yul Brynner (29292178). 12.40am Film: Bonnie and Clyde (640598), 2.40am Film: The Wild Bunch. (50549579). 5.25-5.55am The Village Show (4873442).

As C4 except: 9.00am Saved by the Bell (4707913). 12.10pm Creepy Crawlers (1879449). 12.40 Slot Meithrin (6009888), 1.10 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham (84334410). 5.00 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd (7265), 5.30 Riverdance - The Show (17555), 7.00 Pobol y Owm (760062), 7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (928975), 8.00 Joni Jones: Yr Hanner Coron: (3449). 8.30 News (589604), 8.45 Cyngerdd Dydd Calan (957178), 9.45 Sgorio (946062), 10.45 Frasi-er (535710), 11.15-12.55am Film: A Boy and His Dog. (461159).

#### Radio

#### Radio 1

\$7.6·99.8M社 FM 5.30ans Clive Warren 9.00 90 from the 90s with Jo Whiley and Kevin Greening 4.00 UK Top 40 of 1995 7.00 Live from the 90s 10.00 Meat Out of Hell 12.00 Wendy Lloyd 4.00 6_30am Clive Warren

Rading 2
38-90 Me is
On the Series Rennedy 8.05 Wales
Up to Wagart 2000 Jeanna Lurriley
1.00 The Coronalism Street Story
2.00 Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed.
Stewart 5.00 Station of the Year
7.00 Bert Lair - King of the Forest
8.00 Mervyn Stutter's Lurry, Jive
and Jokes 9.00 For Your Cars Only
10.00 Enchansed Evenings with Liz
Robertson 10.30 The Jamesons
12.05 Digby Fairweather 1.00 Adiri-12.05 Digby Fatrweather 1.00 Adri-an Finighan 3.00-6.00am Steve Madden

Radio 3 91.2-92.4MTz FM

14.5 2.44.5

6.00am On Air. With Andrew Mc-Gregor. Rachmaninov: O come, let us worship; Bless the Lord, O my soul (Vespers) (Corydon Singers/Best). Strauss: Aus Italien (Dresden Strauskapelle/Kempe). Sibelius: Piano Tho in C (Loviisa) (Yoshiko Arai, violin, Seppo Kimanen, cello, Juhani Lagerspetz, piano). Saint-Saëns: Three Rhansodies on Breton Sones, Op 7 (Marie-Claire Alain, organ). Gabrieli: Buccinate în neomenia tube a 19; Canzon XVII a 12 (La Capella Ducale, Musica Fiata Cologne/Wilson). Wagner: Beim Antritt des neuen Jahres (Barnberg Symphony Chorus and Or-

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Schubert: Impromo tu in G flat (D899 No 3) (Krystiam Zimerman, piano). Bach: Suite No 1 in C (BWV 1066) (English Baroque Soloists/Gar-diner). Beethoven: Triple Concerto (David Oistrakh, violin, Mstislav Rostropovich, cello, Sviatoslav Richter, piano, Berlin Philharmon-

ic/Karajan). 10.15 New Year's Day Concert. Brian Kay introduces the Vienna Philharmonic's traditional concert of music by the Strauss family live from the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, Part 1. (10.50-11.15 An dem dunkelblauen Schoenberg.) Part 2. 12.30 Composer of the Week: Ed-

1.30 Uister Orchestra. Conductor Adrian Leaper, Nilolai Demidenko (plano), Shostakovich: Concerto



for plano, trumpet and strings

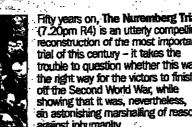
> Oxford: (4/5). 4.30 Words, Music and All That Jazz, Mel Hill explores the rela-

5.15 Fairest Isle Songbook. 5.30 British Cities. Brian Boydell explores music making in Dublin in the 1740s. Handel: Utrecht Te Deum. Vivaldi: Concerto In E. Handel: Sweet Bird. Geminiania Sonata in A, Op 4 No 12. Boyce: Solomon. Geminiani: Concerto Grosso on Corelli's La Folia. Ame: By the Rushy-Fringed Bank. Han-

Bertln Philharmonic/Claudio Abbado. Mahler: Symphony No 9. 9.10 Cultural Baggage.
9.30 Vespers for St Bartholomew London Oratory Choir/ Andrew Carwood, Tallis Scholars/Peter

ficat. Hugh Aston: Gaude virgo. music from the age of 78rpm records, including works by Respigni, Daquin and Schu with performances by Victor de

flat. Op 47. Radio 4 92.4-94.6Mills: File 1986(b) (19 6.00am News: 6.10 Farming Today.



6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Over the Counter. (2/2).
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.
8.40 Harvest of the Cold Months.
By Elizabeth David. (1/5).
9.00 News.
9.05 Start the Week. Berwald: Symphony No 3 in C.

2.30 Record Review. Anthony Buton chaits a discussion on the
best releases of 1995.

3.45 Orbridge Organs. Simon Preston plays the four-manual instrument at Christ Church Cathedral,
Ordrod. (A/6)

tionship between jazz vocalists and language. (1/2), 5.00 The Music Machine. That's the Name of the Game, by

1.40 The Archers. del: Three Dances. 7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. Tolstoy's classic tale of a middle-

Phillips. Thomas Appleby: Magni-Tavemer: Gaude plurimum. 10.45 The Shellac Show. Jeremy Nicholas introduces a selection of

Sabata, Solomon and Herbert 11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Brahms: Waltzes for plane duet, Op 39. Herzogenberg: Variations on a Theme of Brahms, Op 23.

Schumann: Piano Quartet in E

Fifty years on, The Nuremberg Trial (7.20pm R4) is an utterly compelling reconstruction of the most important trouble to question whether this was the right way for the victors to finish

ain astonishing marshalling of reason against inhumanity.

10.00 FM: News; With Great Pleasure, Comedian Jenny Eciair Introduces selections from her tavourite literature. (2/6).

10.00 LW: Daily Service.

10.15 LW: Children's BBC Radio 4.

Sara Volger and Janet Burchett. 10.30 Woman's Hour. 11.30 Hard Shoulder, Soft Touch. 12.00 News; You and Yours. 12.25 Who Goes There? 1.00 The World at One: 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; The Death of Ivan Hyich. Anton Lesser stars in Leo

class man with middle-class aspi-

rations who is forced into a re-evaluation of his entire life. 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. 4.00 News. 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Jeremy Isaacs caught up with the tenor Luciano Pavarotti as he took his summer break in Pesaro.

6.15 The Enchanted Raisin. By

Janice Molloy.

Jacqueline Balcells, translated by

4.45 Short Story: Family Feelings. Fool for Love, written and read by Deborah Moggach. (1/5). 5.00 PM. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 News Quiz of the Year. (2/2) 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 The Monday Play: The Nurem-berg Trial. Dramatised from the trial transcripts by Peter Goodchild, with the participation of some of the defence and prosecuting lawyers and relatives of the defendents. See Choice. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report by JL Carr. (1/10). 11.00 The Unheard Prophet.
11.30 The Water Gypsles. By AP
Herbert, with Amanda Root and Siriol Jenkins. (1/6).

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow by Peter Hoeg. (11/15). 12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00am As World Service. Radio 5

693, 909Mtz MW 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 6.05am The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine 11.05 Dirty News Update 11.35 Pioneers and Presidents 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05 Sport on Five 5.55 The Monday Match 10.05 A Sporting Chance 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 Spaced Out 12.05 The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM

100.0-101.9Mbz fil 5.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 At the Opera House 2.00 Classic Christmas Ballet. Adolphe Adam: Giselle, 4.00 Rob Cowan's 1896 Show 6.00 New News Year 7.00 Ken Russell's Movie Classics 8.00 Evening Concert. Offenbach: Overture: Orpheus in the Underworld. Mozart: Exsultate Jubilate, Tchaikovsky: Fantasy Overfure: Romeo and Juliet, Salrit-Saens: Introduction and Rondo Caoriccioso. Handel: Fireworks Music. Khachaturian: Adaglo of Spartacus and Phrygia. George Gershwin: Rhap-sody in Blue. 10.00 Robert Booth 1.00 Hits Through the Night 4.00-

Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00 Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks **World Service** 

Virgin Radio

6.00am Mark Griffiths

1215, 1197-1260Mb MW 105-898b; FM

6.00am Russ and Jone 9.00

TO SHIP UN 1,00am World News 1.10 Words of Faith 1.15 Sinatra: A Master at Work 1.45 Health Matters 2.00 day 2.30 Quote, Unquote 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shelf: Peter Pan 4.45 Early Version 5.00 Newsday 5.30 What's News 5.45 On the Move



Harker, Winona Ryder (left) being not the book, exactly, but it's damn romantic, and exceedingly plush.

7.00am DJ Kat (2562265), 7.01 X-Men (90234), 7.30 Orson & Olivia (79791), 8.00 Mighty Morphin Power Ranges (57371), 8.30 Take That in Berlin (21913), 9.30 Star Tiek Take That in Berlin (21913) 9-30 star mer. Vogger - Inside the New Adventure (31246), 10.30 Concentration (43178), 11.00 Selly Jessy Rapheel (59739), 12.00 Jeopardyl (27130), 12.30 Mighty Morphin Power Panges (54772), 1.00 The Weltons (82556), 2.00 Geraldo (50178), 3.00 1995 Bibloard Music Awards (88710), 5.00 Star Inde The Net Generation (7517), 6.00 The Simpsons (9539), 6.30 Jeopardyl (9888), 7.00 LAPD (8536), 6-30 Jeopardyl (9888), 7.00 LAPO (2246), 7-30 MASH (8772), 8.00 Central Park (2246), 730 Meyer (6782), 100 Lensin (59884), 10.00 Star Tiels The Next Generation (6783), 11.00 Star Tiels The Next Generation (6783), 11.00 Law & Order (76604), 12.00 David Lenman (6537395), 12.45 The Unbouchables (6921598), 1.30 The Edge (32918), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (6136802).

6.00am Joy of Living (1938) (54739), 8.00 Alice Adems (1935) (34130), 10.00 Mrs Doubtine (1993) (51730555), 12.05 Summer Rental (1985) (702361), 2.00 Hostage for a Day (1993) (28371). 4.00 Son of the Pink Parther (1993) (6449). 6.00 Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (15807). 8.00 Shadowlands (1993) (2452861): 10.15 firam Stoler's Decule. See Choice (1992) (88399770): 12.25 Close to Eden (1992) (828314): 2.15 Lised People (1992) (954014): 4.10-6.00am The Good Poiceman (1993) (353173).

4.00pm A Hard Day's Night (1964) (100)740)). 5.35 The Making of a Hard Day's Night (1994) (8994826). 6.50 Help! (1965) (36504325), 8.30 Police Academy 2 (1985) (70913). 10.00 The Philadelphia Experiment (1984) (239352). 11.50 Jaws (1975) (84188888). 1.55-3.40am Bringing Up Baby (1938) (119024).

8.00 The Whitpping Boy (1994) (32772). 10.00 Moby Dick (51913). 11.00 We're Back! a Dinosaur's Story (1993) (7771352). 12.15 Teerage Mutant Ninja Turtles III (1992) (541197), 2.00 Rookle of the Year (1993) (698604), 3.55 Zoo Robbery (1973) (6575178). 5.05 The Corsid can Brothers (1941 1/977217RJ 6.00 Official Denial (1993) (13449). 8.00 Escape from Tenor. The Tens Stamper Story (1994) (18994), 10.00 The

6.00am For the First Time (1959) (45081).

MATCHWEIL

Nated Gun 331/3 (1994) (65449), 11.30 A Bronx Tate (1993) (42408826), 1.35 Water (1985) (749032), 3.15 Silhouette (1994) 19375981. 4.50-6.00am The Whipping Boy

Fver After (1241178), 8.00 What a Cam-(44041197), 10.40 The Bill (2359197). 11.15 The Best of Top of the Pops (6905826). 12.00 Dr Who: The Summake (2967802). 12.30 Telefon (5029901). 2.00-7.00em Shopping (7449173).

7,30am Raily Raid (17975). 8.00 Skating (89975), 9.30 Ste Jumping (52130), 10.30 Rally Reld (35807), 11.00 Boung (26523), 12,00 Strength (66265), 1,00 Formula 1 (75913), 2.00 Football (22230), 3.30 Ski Jumping (70130), 5.00 Truck Racing (2401), 6.00 Boxing (62449), 7.00 Speed-world (80604), 8.30 Rally Raid (7913), 9.00 Wresting (50994). 10.00 Football (53081), 11.00 Sid Jumping (14888). 12.00-12.30am Rally Raid (67444).

TME TEES/YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.40pm Coronation Street
(6001246). 1.10 Film: Return of the Seven. Westem starring Yul Brynner, Robert Fuller and Warren
Oates (29292178). 12.40pm Film: Happy New

mantic cornedy starring Molly Ringwald (485717). 3,45am An Evening with Placido Domingo (338640). 4.45-5.55am Oliver Twist (1079685). CENTRAL. As London

The Wild Bunch, Sam Peckinpah's violent, land-mark Western starring William Holden (50549579). 5.25-5.55am Invitation to Remember (4873442).

### **Satellite**

choice



The pleasures of Bram Stoker's Dracula are numerous (10.15pm Sky Movies): a stonking battle scene where vamp Gary Oldman wears blood-red armour, Keanu Reeves failing to cope with an English accent as Jonathan perfectly vestal and tragic as Lucy. It's

> 7.00am Angals (8523791). 7.30 Neighbours (8542826). 8,00 Sons and Daughter (6086791). 8.30 EastEnders (6085062). 9.00 The Still (609642). 9.30 The Sulf-9.00 The EBI (6009642). 9.30 The Sulf-vans (7456994). 10.00 Secret Army (8531710). 11.00 Debts (8528246). 12.00 Sons and Daughters (6096178). 12.30 Neighbours (7450710). 1.00 East-Enders (8522062). 1.30 The BBI (7459081). 2.00 The Sulfvans (61618807). 2.25 Are You Being Served? (2820710). 3.00 Angels (2995264). 3.30 Edorado (1225130). 4.00 Casualty (35009401). 5.05 Lamy Grayson's Generation Game (77916178). 6.15 Kenny's Comic Cuts (8365994). 6.25 EastEnders (7747848). 7.00 Edorado (2987265). 7.30 Happy Ever After (1241178). 8.00 What a Carry Onl (2996913). 8.30 Alas Smith and Jone (2975420). 9.00 Carry on Emmanmella

STEPPE YES 7.00am World Sport Special (51212). 7.30 Racing News (22807), 8,00 Snowboard Tour (21604), 8,30 Football Special (28701468). 10.15 Cridet (1614333). 11.30 The Big League (926352), 2,00 Darts - Live (446791), 5,00 Rubol Mundial (8826), 5,30 Roothall Special - Live (110604), 8,00 Football Special - Live (37196499). 10.15 Sports Cen-tre (710449). 10.45 Cricket (2967772). 12.00 The Big Lagga (963482). 2.30 Monday Night Football (34734). 3.30-4.00am Sports Centre (75734).

"How could anyone leave poor Gypsy to suffer like this?"

"When we found her she was in an unbelievable state, bedraggled, covered in burrs and lice, full of worms and suffering from severe emaciation and dehydration. It was very probable that she had been in foal and had recently aborted. She is the worst case of horse cruelty I have We were determined to save her. After 12 months

of careful rehabilitation at the ILPH, Gypsy made a full

recovery. It's lucky we found her in time. It's horrific that

suffering like this still occurs in Britain." Claure Chapman Head Girl.

ILPH Rest & Rehabilitation Centre. Norfolk.

Postcode

Ref: IN/A/1/1

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THIS WEEK IN

ER TO

Rare staging of championships with a 300-year tradition is made possible by big freeze. Andy Martin reports



said. Second in the one and a half miles was Michael Mc

Inerney, a rollerboy who had

swapped his wheels for blades

for the day. "This is not my peak season," he pointed out. "If this

The great thing about the Fen

Championships is that they

hardly ever happen. The event

can only take place when con-

call a killer wind-chill factor and

lumps of snow and hoarfrost ly-

ing about the course perfect.

Fen skating reminded me of the

Eddie Aikan Big-Wave surfing

contest, in Hawaii, which is

only held when the waves get

higher than 20 feet. "Yeah," said

one woman spectator, but I'd

rather be in Hawaii."

were July, I'd be flying.

### Fenland skaters blow hot in the cold

According to thermodynamics, it is impossible to attain absolute zero (minus 273C). Bury Fen, in Earith, Cambridgeshire, made a fair crack at turning thermodynamics on its head on Saturday. It certainly succeeded in turning a few skaters on their heads as the Fen Championships were fought out on a 400-metre track carved out of a 30-acre sheet of solid ice. Amid scenes straight out of a Brueghel, several hundred men. women and children skidded about on skates, sledges, prams dustbin lids and, often enough, the seat of their pants.

I arrived prepared to do a Harry Houdini to escape from beneath the frozen flood waters of the River Ouse. The notice on the gate did not exactly reassure me: "Skating is dangerous and you skate at your own risk. DEEP WATER IN PLACES." But I need not have worried. The ice was so fathomless I would not have been surprised to spot a refrigerated hairy mammoth down there. There was no risk of falling through the ice.

Contestants in the Fen Championships had to come from within a 40-mile radius of March, near Peterborough. The word "heat" for the early rounds was never less appro-



priate. But the hottest skaters were Michael Edwards, from King's Lynn, 16-year-old winner of the one-and-a-half-mile Fen Cup in 4 minutes 34 seconds, and Jonathan Cave, 17, of Peterborough, who won the 500 metres sprint in 38.24 secs. Both are members of the Great

Britain short track squad. Skating is a great tradition on the Fens. Our only world champion, James Smart, came from nearby Welney. The locals credit the 17th-century Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden palace at Heerenveen. with bringing skating over to England at the same time as he come to live over here. Jan van

drained the Fens. Now the serious skaters regularly travel to the Netherlands to train, buy their kit, and go through their paces at the Mecca of skating, the giant 400-metre indoor ice

Conversely, some Dutchmen

By Portia

Wonderen said Bury Fen reminded him of Holland in the winter where everyone puts their skates on and you can glide over 50 kilometres across country without ever having to take your skates off. There was only one vital thing missing: the kock en zoopie (cake and drinks

Saturday favoured the born and bred ice warriors of the you really need soup and hot chocolate and a fire going."
Phillip Doubleday at 66 was Fens. "This is the hard men or the lunatics," Mr Morris

the oldest competitor and clocked a respectable 5 min 38 sec in the one-and-a-half-mile event. Born in January 1929, he was first carried on to the ice in March 1929 and could skate almost before he walked. As a professional skater he had fallen through the ice more times than he cared to remember. "We don't like it." he said, gritting his farming stock are hardy souls. Professional skating started here when farm labourers, laid off for the winter, would skate for money to replace their wages. They skated to eat.

Now there is a new order threatening to overtake the old: in-line skaters or rollerbladers. The technique (sit low, drive on the outside edge) is broadly similar, but the ethos is hedonistic Californian rather than stoic East Anglian. Melton Morris, grandfather of Michael Edwards, originally built a in-line skating track at West Winch, near King's Lynn. to provide out-of-season training to ice skaters. "Now," he says. "in-liners have taken

over. But the rugged conditions on

### HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

THINK [ ] CHOIR AMPLE [ ] REVEL GRAND[] DROLL PIVOT [ ] VAGUE SPACE [ ] BLESS EAGER [ ] HOVEL LOCAL [ ] MANOR

Place a letter between the words which, when substituted for the middle letter of each word either side, will create two other words. When all the letters have been found a word can be read downwards. What is the word?

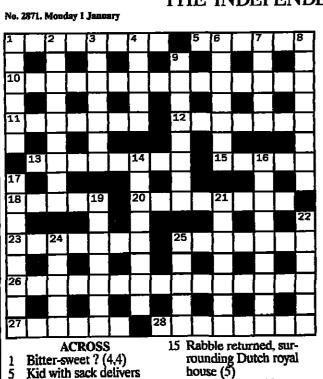
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#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



jumble (6)

10 That is place to go to

11 No good to be more fru-

gal (7) 12 Unable to swallow hard one, I have it with wine

13 Writing style certain to be very fine (8)

house (5) 18 Sounds like rod is

crooked (5) build medical centre (7,8) 20 Clip neat kind of garden flower (3-5) 23 Speech engineers drop out of course (7) 25 One included in a table

setting out plant species 26 Fairytale opera ? (6,3,6)

27 Immediate cause (6) 28 Key left in a round shaped pot (8)

Note of regret after bill's to fall due (6) Unenlightened ? (2,3,4) Blunt director reaches impasse (4-3) Unfolds topless vestments, lined with navy (5) A positive aim for delegate (7) Staff don't make a declaration (5)

Trail over getting every one involved in dance (8) Study Greek island material (8) 14 Chinese duck moving in later (8)

16 Not scared by accident in Yorkshire (9) Transport firm heading for trouble (8) 19 Heard proper well-in-formed review (5-2)

21 Ample sign European's coming into line (7) 22 Magician getting the bird 24 Roman author occupied

by new piece of poetry 25 Girl is seen in costly diamonds (5)

### Winter loosens grip as mild air filters north

#### REBECCA FOWLER

The cold snap that brought snow and ice and record low temperatures to parts of Britain began to lift at the weekend -and resulted in thousands of

burst water pipes. The London Weather Centre said the improvement was marked. "It's going to get dra-matically milder, with milder air spreading from the south. The Siberian wind has gone back to Siberia," a spokesman said.

But conditions remained perilous for drivers last night the RAC described South Wales as an "ice-rink", and freezing rain and sleet created treacherous conditions in the North There was growing concern

last night for a missing couple, in their fifties, whose abandoned snow-covered car was found on Friday night at Wenlock Edge, Shropshire.

The bad weather has also taken its toll on the rest of Europe. Five people were killed and seven seriously injured in road accidents in Belgium and northern France this weekend. Italy was also affected. Snow forced the closure of Milan airport yesterday, while heavy rain battered central and southern regions, and the canals in Venice overflowed. Emergency services in

Britain were stretched to the limit last night, as drivers struggled to their New Year's Eve destinations. Ambulance controllers in Oxfordshire said every ambu-

lance in the county was being used to dash from one accident to another, and in Avon, there were more than 500 emergency calls. PC John Troke, of Hampshire police, said: "As fast as the grit is put down, the road is icing over again. Cars are spinning or turning over like ballerinas skating around. In Scotland, which has suf-

fered the worst weather in the last week, the thaw has caused thousands of burst pipes, and emergency services were receiving calls at the rate of 300 an hour in Glasgow alone. ■ A man whose body was found wedged in a window at his

home in South Wales may have frozen to death, police said yesterday. They believe the 52year-old man became trapped while trying to get into the house in Ammanford after

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wherf, London E145DL and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford Monday 1 January 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.



